

BLACK

LINES

MARCH 1998, Vol. 3, No. 2 Free/\$2 outside Chicago EXPRESSIONS FROM BLACK GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDERED LIFE

ANGELA DAVIS

1970s revolutionary leader Angela Davis is still on the frontlines — speaking out about a wide variety of issues. She's also out as a lesbian, and promoting her new book, *Blues Legacies and Black Feminism*. She'll be in Chicago to autograph copies the end of March. See page 20.



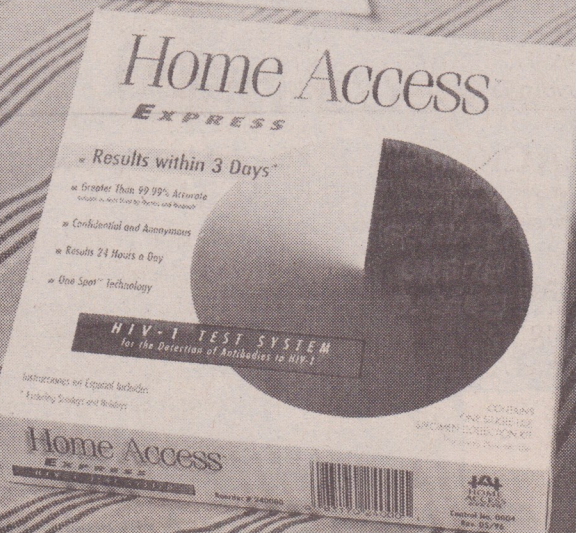
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in town March 25-29

See page 14 for details.

ALSO INSIDE: New leader for Forum; Bayard Rustin Awards; Ardis McBell dies; Women's Film Fest; Music Beat; Politics; and More!

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BLACK LINES

March, 1998
Volume 3, Number 2

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BLACKlines

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We are always
seeking photos, art,
cartoons, columns,
poetry, press releases,
calendar items ...

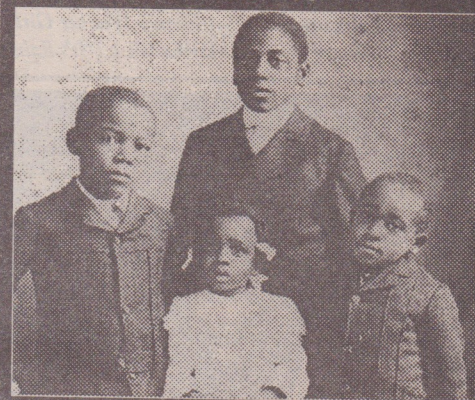
BLACKlines

DEADLINE is the 5th of
each month for articles,
calendar, photos, art,
poetry, viewpoints, etc.

Material used on a
space-available basis.



Coretta Scott King is the featured speaker at this year's Lambda Legal Defense Bon Foster luncheon, Tuesday, March 31; (312) 663-4413. See calendar page 12 for more events. Ruth Ellis, at 100, is the oldest known openly lesbian African-American. Her story is part of this year's Women In the Director's Chair Film Fest in March. See page 22. Ruth is pictured with her brothers in a family photo.



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The Grapevine ...

"I JUST SAID, 'MOM, you had to leave town to marry your husband, and your father disowned you for it. Of all people, you should understand me.'" — *Phil Reed, the first Black, gay, HIV-positive person elected in the U.S., to the New York City Council last November, on clearing the air with his mom before she died. To POZ magazine, March issue.*

"I TALKED ABOUT my HIV infection when it was appropriate, but I wanted to draw attention to my district, not my health. People thought I was crazy when I announced I was running for office. A lot of them thought I had already died of AIDS, so we

called my campaign 'Dead Man Running.'" — *Phil Reed, who won with 75% of the vote, to POZ, on allegations that he kept his HIV status quiet during the campaign. Tom Duane, another NY City Councilmember, is also HIV-positive.*

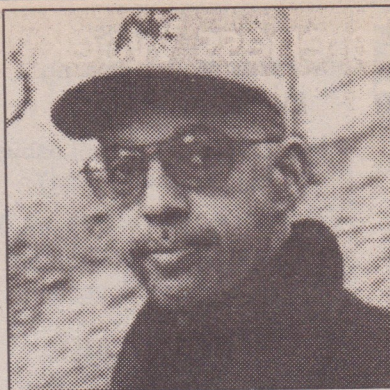
"THE GAY COMMUNITY has been the base of my success. I'm one to know how supportive the gay community can be. They started with me when I was with Sylvester, who had a large following, and have grown with me all through the years. They've been there and supported me, even when I didn't have an album." — *Former Weather Girl Martha Wash ("It's Raining Men") to Denver's OUT FRONT. Wash and Ru Paul recently re-recorded "It's Raining Men."*

"I'M NEVER going to be a size eight. I'd look horrible if I were. I'm not going to buy into the idea that thin is the thing. I have a problem with people's idea of beauty. Everyone is not the same

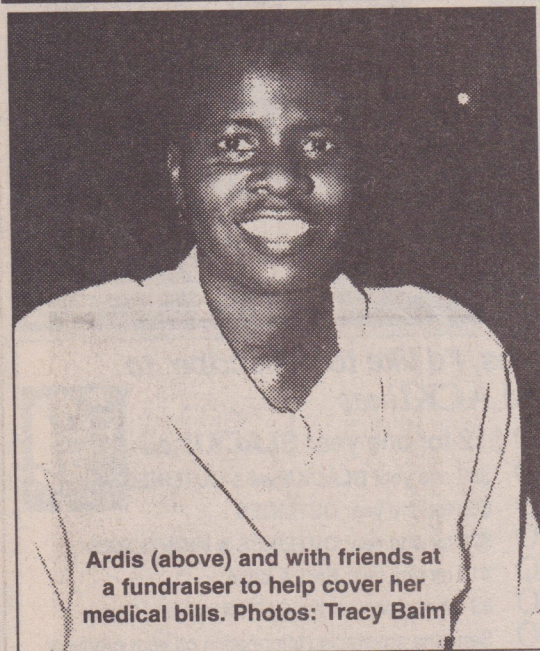
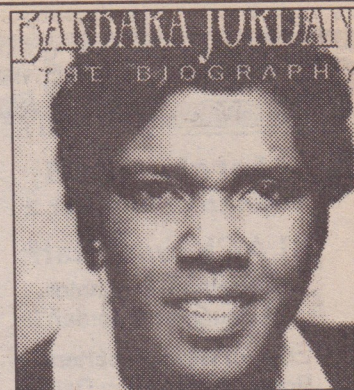
size. Folks have to get over it. People can be large and sexy." — *Former Weather Girl Martha Wash ("It's Raining Men") to Denver's OUT FRONT.*

"BARBARA JORDAN was the first Black congresswoman and certainly the first Black gay person, who achieved the respect and love of millions

through her untiring efforts in Congress to introduce legislation to make a better life for all Americans." — *Promo for a just-released new book, Barbara Jordan: The Biography, by Austin Teutsch (Golden Touch Press). We'll have full details on the book in the next BLACKLINES.*



Openly gay NY Councilman Phil Reed in Poz. The new Jordan bio.



Ardis (above) and with friends at a fundraiser to help cover her medical bills. Photos: Tracy Baim

tionship with LaJaunessee Jordan, BLACKLINES' managing coordinator; Jordan held a benefit for McBell last fall. McBell donated her body to medical research and education and requested that it go to a Black university to further education of minority students. Her memorial service was held in Evanston, where she lived, because she wanted a party, not a funeral. The program was designed by McBell and she selected some of the music. Ardis McBell departed as she lived—taking control and doing things her way.

PASSAGES

ARDIS MAUPIN MCBELL, 43, departed this life early Feb. 11 after waging a courageous battle against metastatic breast cancer for nearly five years. McBell combined her knowledge gained throughout her journey with cancer, her "take no mess" attitude, and her love for women to serve as an advocate for women with cancer in several ways. She also assisted with volunteer training at the Lesbian Community Cancer Project, and was a client there (see Nov. 1997 BLACKLINES). She was a volunteer at Howard Brown Health Center, and a member of Womyn of All Colors/Cultures Together. McBell has a daughter, Jeanine K. Valrie, 20, who is a pre-med student at Fisk University. Valrie reported on the Million Woman March for BLACKLINES. McBell had a special rela-



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NAACP, People for the American Way Foundation Team Up For Public Ed

by P.J. Engelbrecht

Civil-rights leaders gathered at the Thompson State of Illinois Building Feb. 5 to announce a new public education initiative, Chicago "Partners for Public Education" (PPE). The multicultural, all-inclusive coalition will support and promote the city's public schools and strongly opposes conservative attempts to divert public school funding.

"We need to take a stand," said Kweisi Mfume, national president and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "Through public education we have produced some of the greatest leaders this country has ever known. ... We can't allow ... anybody to destroy our [school] system."

Rev. Furmin Sessoms, the executive director of the Chicago Southside NAACP, and Carole Shields, president of People for the American Way Foundation, detailed the purpose of the new partnership.

The PPE challenges the entire premise of so-called school vouchers, currently being touted around the nation as a solution to the financial crunch and quality slump of publicly funded schools, said Rev. Sessoms.

Voucher systems offer parents



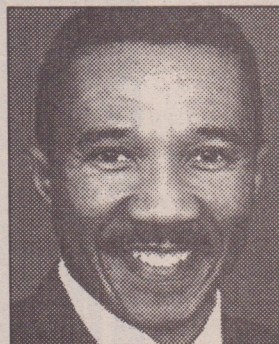
attending the Illinois Federation for Human Rights fundraising gala in January. From left: 27th Ward Ald. Walter Burnett; Darlena Williams-Burnett (running for Cook County Board, 1st District); Judge Morton Zwick; Cook County Recorder of Deeds Jesse White (who is running for Secretary of State), and Cook County Board President John Stroger. Photo by Tracy Baim

3.17.98

The March 4 and 11 editions of OUTLINES weekly will have a full preview for the March 17 Democratic and Republican primaries. Pictured here are some of the politicians

"i.o.u."-like credit (drawn from tax monies) to help pay for private school tuition when they take their children out of state-financed and presumably inferior public schools.

Critics of such schemes insist that vouchers can only worsen the public education financial crisis and decimate public school enrollments—particularly drawing away middle-class students, leaving only the poor-



Kweisi Mfume

est and most disadvantaged students to attend a community's public schools—and ultimately wreaking havoc on the quality of public education.

Sessoms described such funding plans as a 'diversion of public funds' from already strapped public schools, and he applauded Gov. Jim Edgar's recent veto rejection of such a bill. "It was shameful. ... Gov. Edgar was right," Sessoms said. "We say 'yes' to public education and 'no' to vouchers."

The PPE also perceives a Constitutional issue; Sessoms pointed out that many voucher advocates are right-wing conservatives who back church-affiliated, religious schools.

Using vouchers or tax breaks to fund a child's private, religious school attendance apparently violates the separation of church and state, says the PPE. Tuition tax credits are "another

way to divert public education dollars to religious schools," Shields asserted.

Currently, only enough private school slots exist for 25% of school-age children, so a collapse of the public system precipitated by vouchers could be a national education disaster.

Shields also noted that the "well-financed" drive for school vouchers inevitably hurts urban schools the most. "Fear and despair has always fueled" white flight to the suburbs. Shields said the PPE must replace that "divisive surrender" to economic and racial injustice with hope.

The NAACP and PFAW have formed similar PPE partnerships, first in Baltimore just over a year ago, then in Philadelphia. Advisory councils are in place in eight other states and the District of Columbia, including Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin, each partnership geared to the local school situation. At least 25-50 city partnerships are anticipated.

"We want to look at what is working ... and replicate [that]," Sessoms said.

Rev. Floyd Davis, pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church and NAACP board member also appeared during the press conference. PPE supporters included Jenny Cheek of Planned Parenthood and Joel Rubin of the American Jewish Congress. Call (312) 409-6610.

Mary M. York
Rosemary S. Mulryan

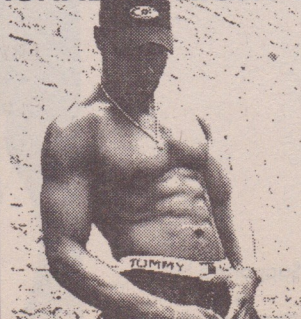
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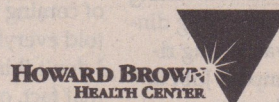
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Headly to Lead Black Leadership Forum

by Bob Roehr

Jubi D. Headley Jr. is the new executive director of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum. The announcement came at the end of the awards banquet of their annual conference, Feb. 14, in Washington, D.C. He takes over on March 1.

He has squeezed this interview between the job he is leaving and another meeting at the Forum office. The 28-year-old is a large man whose voice and presence is a blend of infectious exuberance and relaxed dignity. It's a complex balance, smooth and natural, not calculated. He is sometimes a bit awed by the challenges before him, but eager to embrace them.

Headley was conceived in Barbados but the family emigrated to Boston prior to his birth. They are close knit, two older sisters and a younger brother. Puberty hit and he "started dreaming about men, fantasizing about them." He became sexually active in his teens but "didn't say I was gay until I was 19." And he continued to have sex with women until about 20. "That was my cover, and that was not fair to the women."

He excelled at Boston Latin and later at Vassar College. During sophomore year, his oldest sister secretly married and his mother was bemoaning the fact over Thanksgiving dinner. Perhaps it was sibling rivalry which prompted Jubi to say, "You never have to worry about me mom, I'm never getting married so I'll never put you through this kind of stress."

A flurry of questions hit him from all sides before he admitted to being bisexual. That was in 1989. Mom didn't want the neighbors to know. It would be a stretch to say that she is com-

pletely comfortable with her son being gay. But when he called saying he had been offered the job at the Forum she replied, "If that is what you want to do, that is what you have to do because you have to live your own life."

"I love my mother and I need her in my life," says Headley, the affection is obvious in his stories. "For her to be trying is enough for me. I think that is a level of growth."

Headley says he loved his father, "but we didn't see eye to eye, I think we were too much alike. Plus, he was not the most respectful person to my mother. I saw him as the obstacle to the family's happiness."

The elder Headley developed cancer and died when Junior was 18. They had begun to reconcile during those last months and his death shook Jubi deeply. But at the same time it opened a door. "Had he not died I may not have come out to my family because it is very clear he would not have dealt with it the same way my mother did. I was probably afraid of coming out to him."

FORUM TIES

The Leadership Forum's 1994 conference in Secaucus, New Jersey was a personal watershed for Headley. "In retrospect I realize there are stages of coming out. And while I had told everybody that I was gay, I don't think that I had owned that fact, or recognized it as a political or spiritual identity. The conference really helped me to recognize that."

He met Ken Reeves, then mayor of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and for "the first time realized that we could be openly gay and political, and successful. I met Bishop Carl Bean and it opened my eyes to the

idea that we could have a spiritual identity, and we were entitled to one. And we didn't have to wait for someone to say it was OK."

Like so many of his generation he has been shaped by the shadow of AIDS and a limited sense of community. So meet-



Jubi D. Headley.
Photo by Lester Davis

ing Ruth Waters, the Forum's co-founder, "an openly lesbian African American woman who could potentially have been my grandmother, was an amazing experience. It was the first time that I realized our community had longevity and a history."

"The day we were leaving that conference me and three other gay men stood in the lobby of that hotel and bawled our eyes out. It was the most supportive, most affirming space we had ever been in. We knew that when we went home we were not going to find that kind of affirmation."

"That is when I became really invested in working with the Forum. It was really for my own protection. As the years have gone on I have realized more about what the political agenda of our community needs to be and ought to be. But it essentially started as, this is going to save my life. That is why it is so emotional to me to even think about applying for this job and be given this opportunity."

THE WORKS

Headley had returned to Boston after college and landed

a job as a trainer in substance abuse and HIV. Meeting Reeves at the conference led to him working on a local AIDS conference that summer, and eventually to a job as the mayor's executive assistant.

A year and a half later, when the mayor's term ended, he moved to Washington and work at the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The Forum opened their D.C. office about the same time. Headley volunteered for a number of projects and helped put together the most recent conference. So he is well prepared to hit the ground running.

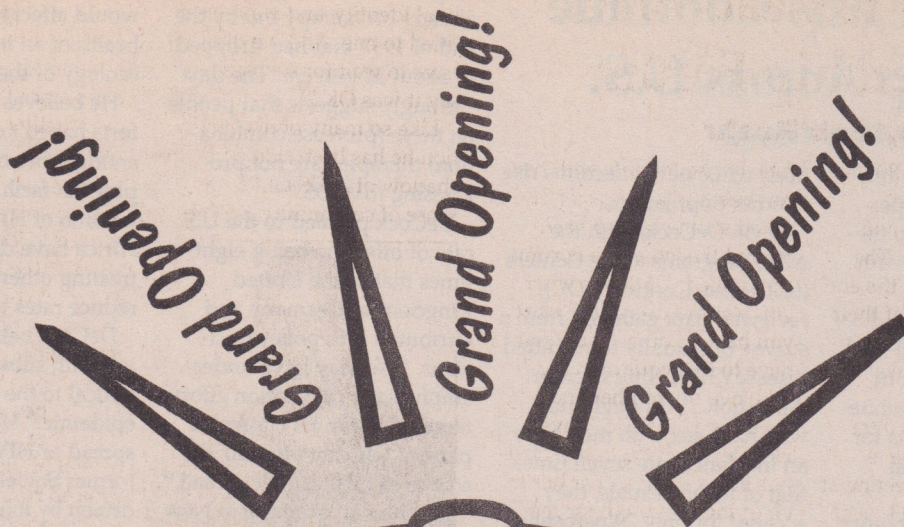
One priority is "to improve communications with the membership and engage them more in the work that the Forum does." He voiced a clear responsibility for openness and accountability to all.

He pledged that he and the board and those members who are willing, "will pummel the sensibilities of the African American community until they recognize, accept, and hopefully eventually celebrate the diversity, not only the racial diversity, but the gender diversity, the sexual diversity that is in our community."

Headley singled out AIDS as an area where too much of the Black community leadership is in denial. Every year the National Urban League publishes "The State of Black America." In 18 years "they have yet to recognize this epidemic" in that evaluation. "AIDS is a concern for all of the community, especially with IV drug use overtaking homosexual sex as the primary mode of transmission."

He also feels pressure from the community, "to include transgendered, not in a novel or a token way, but in a meaningful way." He sees these as "intertwined with all of the issue that have been historically addressed in any of the civil rights movements."

See page 17 for photos



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AIDS Deaths Continue to Drop Across U.S.

by Bob Roehr

New York City saw deaths from AIDS plummet 64 percent in 1997 compared to the previous year. Dr. Mary Ann Chiasson, with the City Department of Health, said, "The declines were in all socio-economic groups but were most prevalent in white males." The city accounts for 16 percent of the national AIDS caseload.

Tom Coates, a demographer from the University of California at San Francisco, said the decline mirrored the 67 percent drop in California.

Los Angeles activist Phill Wilson asked if the disparities of decline between white, Black, Hispanic, and female subgroups was the result of less access to care by minorities. Chiasson did not dismiss that as a factor but she added, "There is more going on there." She pointed to the fact that new infections among men who have sex with men plateaued several years ago, largely due to safer-sex prac-

tices, while new infections rise in other populations.

Kevin DeCock, with the AIDS programs at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), reviewed data gathered from a survey of sexually transmitted disease (STD) clinics across the nation. "Although men who have sex with men have an incidence rate seven times that of heterosexuals, they account for only 29 percent of new infections in the STD clinic population," he said. That is down from more than half only a few years ago.

HIV infection in Blacks is 22 times that of whites in New York City. The prevalence of HIV in injection drug users is concentrated along the Atlantic Coast. Heterosexual AIDS is spreading rapidly into the rural South, while the Midwest is the principle region which still has a relatively low presence of HIV.

CDC researcher Paul Denning said that in early 1996 over half of all AIDS

diagnoses were in people already on therapy but by the end of 1997 that had dropped to about 30 percent. The data "strongly suggests that people on these (protease combination) therapies are not progressing to AIDS."

DeCock pointed to the U.S. rate of infection being eight times that of the United Kingdom or Germany and attributed it to policy decisions. "We may have under-emphasized prevention efforts targeted at the HIV infected person, who are after all, the source of further HIV spread."

He cited an example in New York state where multiple infections were traced to one man. "We don't know how common such networks are. We know that for other STDs, a minority of individuals contribute disproportionately to the transmission and overall epidemiology of the disease."

This points to what many believe to be the CDC quest for policies of HIV names reporting and perhaps even contact tracing. DeCock said the agency has yet to finalize a policy on those issues. [In Illinois, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago is coordinating a

health issues" said DeCock. It would affect not only the health of an individual but the ecology of the epidemic.

He believes prevention efforts haven't emphasized enough the role other STDs play "in facilitating the transmission of HIV." As projects in Africa have demonstrated, treating other STDs helps reduce rates of HIV infections.

DeCock believes that dealing with substance abuse "is critical to the future of this epidemic." He pointed to the spread of HIV in Asia and the former Soviet Union as being driven by injection drug use.

Man Indicted in Christmas' murder

by P.J. Engelbrecht

A Chicago man reportedly acquainted with homicide victim Jerry Christmas, 70, was indicted Feb. 3 in Branch 66 Violence Court. Theodore Teague, 20, of 5114 S. Paulina, was charged with 1st degree murder, home invasion and armed robbery.

Teague was scheduled to appear Feb. 13 before Chief Judge Thomas Fitzgerald in room 101 of the courts building at 26th and California.

Teague allegedly committed the early January murder of Christmas, who was found dead Jan. 11 in his apartment at 4800 S. Lake Park. Teague was reportedly caught while in possession of Christmas' stolen Lexus automobile.

A former teacher who had spent part of his retirement travelling abroad in Asia, Christmas was known to many in the African-American gay community as a bisexual. He recently became an active, valued member of Adodi.

Christmas apparently succumbed to multiple stab wounds in his head and back, inflicted with a pair of scissors, several days before neighbors realized something was amiss.

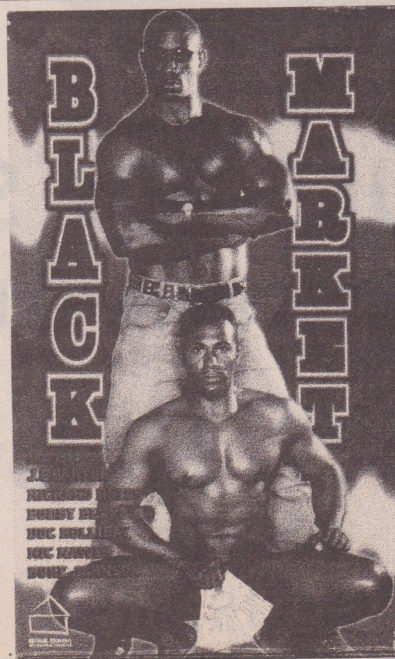


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protest to the Illinois Dept. of Health's recent announcement that they plan to implement mandatory HIV names reporting; call 312-922-2322.]

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THRIVE! **1998** **HIV RESOURCE EXPO**

THRIVE! 1998 HIV Resource EXPO is a good place to start. This 2-day event is again sponsored by Test Positive Aware Network and the Forum Advisory Council. It will feature presentations by well-known local physicians and world-renowned speakers from the forefront of HIV research and treatment—including leading-edge researcher **Dr. Anthony Japour** and **Moisés Agosto** of the National Minority AIDS Council.

Exhibitors will include pharmaceutical companies, medical professionals, alternative therapy practitioners, community-based organizations, and peer resources—everything to give you the information you need to make the right decisions.

Friday, March 27th & Saturday, March 28th 11am–6pm
University of Illinois / Chicago Illini Union / 828 South Wolcott / Chicago

For more information, contact Test Positive Aware Network at 773-404-TPAN



Saturday, March 7

9th International Women's Day Benefit Dance '98 music by Laura Branch, dancing, appetizers, cash bar, an all-night Women's Bazaar, 8p-2a, \$20 adv/\$25 @ door, Congress Hotel, 520 S Michigan. Tix at Women & Children First Bookstore, 5233 N Clark, & from members of sponsor orgs: Affinity, Literary Exchange, Metro, Battered Women's Network, & the Women's Assistance Fund.

GLSEN Bowl-A-Thon to benefit Chicago/GLSEN Scholarship Fund 8-11pm. 2211 W Diversey Pkwy. (708) 388-0831.

N'DIGO Foundation 3rd Annual Gala Celebration: (recipients Al Johnson, Bishop Arthur Brazier, Dr Barbara Sizemore, Silas Purnell, Vernon Jordan), (312) 822-0202.

Sunday, March 8

Destiny Women's Softball Team Fundraiser to go to Amsterdam Games in 98. Play Whirly Ball, 2-5pm. 800 E Roosevelt Rd, Lombard, Ill. (708) 895-3430.

GIFT (Growing in Family Togetherness) New non-profit volunteer org of straight/gay parents, GLBT youth & adults, families & friends meets 2nd Sundays 2-4pm. 3326 Lincoln. (773) 869-9100.

International Women's Day Concert Rebel Voices (Janet Stacher & Susan Lewis) perform folk music w/ theater & politics. 1:30pm, 3rd Unitarian Church, 301 N Mayfield. (773) 626-9385.

Vote YES Oak Park sponsors "One Community, One Heart" interfaith service & candlelight vigil, featuring "Kenned & Carl" & the 1st United Church of Oak Park Choir, speakers Rev Bobbi Hargleroad, Rabbi Gary Gerson & Rev Bradley Mickelson. 4pm, coffee & dessert reception following. At 1st United Church of

Oak Park, 848 Lake St, Oak Pk. Ill. VYOP is a coalition in support of the Oak Pk. DP Registry referendum vote Mar 17. (708) 524-2663

Women & Children First Celebrate Women's History Month while celebrating the New, Expanded Bookstore! Events all day. 5233 N Clark. (773) 769-9299.

Monday, March 9

Heavy's Westside "3 Guys from Albany" (Tom Nattell, Charlie Rossiter, Dan Wilcox) performance poetry. \$2, 7217 W Madison, Forest Park, (708) 660-9376.

Tuesday, March 10

Gerber/Hart Library & Archives New non-fiction book discussion series "Lesbian & Gay Life-Stories," with 3 bios, 2nd Tuesdays, 7:30pm. Tonight, Audre Lorde's *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name*. 3352 N Paulina. (773) 728-5119.

Wed., March 11

GAMBA ("warrior") support group facilitated by Charles Nelson under BROTHERS Community Awareness Network (Brothers CAN) meets 2nd & 4th Weds. at Minority Outreach Intervention (773) 752-7867.

Imani Umoja discussion group for gay & bi brothers of color meets 2nd & 4th Wednesdays—feeling & healing the spirit during Black History Month & all year 'round! At Sinai Family Health Centers, Grand blvd. Plaza, 5401 S Wentworth. Info Preston Shumaker, workshop coordinator (773) 907-8993.

School of the Art Institute film/culture critic B. Ruby Rich. 6pm, \$5, 280 S Columbus. (312) 443-3711.

Thursday, March 12

Affinity black lesbian/bi women's discussion group meets 7-8:30pm.

Mother Drexel Hall, lower level 6042 S Indiana. (312) 409-7609.

AIDS CARE & Horizons Dining Out For Life at over 100 participating restaurants, (773) 935-4663.

Friday, March 13

Horizons Community Services Mental Health Issues in the LGBT Community seminar 3-5pm. 961 W Montana. (773) 472-6469.

Star Plaza The Isley Bros. w/ guest Howard Hewett. (312) 559-1212.

The Vix presents The Pulsations. 10pm, \$5 cover. 2814 N Halsted.

Monday, March 16

Howard Brown Health Center Women's Program "A Taste for Every Palate," 3rd annual food & wine tasting gala features 15+ women chefs, arts & vine experts; 6-8:30p, Cafe Brauer, 2021 N Stockton. (773) 388-8992.

School of the Art Institute "Lesbian Identity Politics" trans playwright/performance artist Kate Bornstein. 6pm, \$5, 280 S Columbus. (312) 443-3711.

Wednesday, March 18

Berlin Women's Obsession **School of the Art Institute** "Lesbian Identity Politics" installation artist Millie Wilson. 6pm, 280 S Columbus. (312) 443-3711.

Unabridged Bookstore Kate Bornstein. 3251 N Broadway. (773) 883-9119.

Thursday, March 19

Loyola Univ. Chicago displays 800+ Chicago-area panels from the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. Thru 3/22, (773) 508-7004.

US Holocaust Memorial Museum-Chicago Gay & Lesbian Project hosts gay victim of Nazi oppression & Berlin underground resistance

activist Gad Beck, (847) 433-8099.

Friday, March 20

Human Rights Campaign hosts "Chasing The Sun Beach Party" \$30. North Beach, North & Sheffield. (312) 409-9129, x2.

Ma'at Production Assn. of Afrikan Centered Theater world premiere of Lydia Diamond's *The Inside*, (773) 871-3000.

The Vix presents The Pulsations. 10pm, \$5 cover. 2814 N Halsted.

Women in the Director's Chair 17th Annual Film & Video Festival See page 22 for all info.

Saturday, March 21

Affinity 40 Plus women's group meets 3rd Saturdays, 4-6pm. Info, location, topic (773) 667-7606.

Communities of Women Art Gallery Gala opening celebration! 2-6pm. 30 E Adams, 4th fl of Bennett Bldg. (773) 275-1319.

Horizons Community Services 9th Annual Human First Gala black-tie benefit dinner, (773) 472-6469.

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children Women of Color Poetry, an evening with M. Liza Hamilton, Duriel Harris, Melysha Sargis and others, 7:30pm, 1650 W Foster. (773) 973-9934.

Sunday, March 22

Kindred Hearts Lesbians After 40 "Brunch at Leona's" 11am, Leona's, (847) 604-0913.

Twin Cities>Wisconsin>Chicago AIDS Ride3 "Mini-Expo 98" 1-5pm, 200 E Roosevelt Rd, Lombard, Ill. Info (773) 880-8812

Monday, March 23

School of the Art Institute "Facing the Dogs: Lesbian Identity Politics & Contemporary voices" speaker series investigate contemp art in

larger social context: writer/ activist / archivist Joan Nestle. 6pm, \$5 280 S Columbus. (312) 443-3711.

Wed., March 25

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (312) 902-1500.

Angela Davis at Afrocentric Books The famed Af-Am radical/ revolutionary prof & writer recently came out: 5:30-7:30pm, admission only w/ purchased copy of her new book, *Blues Legacy...* (\$24). 333 S State, (312) 939-1956.

Ill. Federation for Human Rights Gay Rights Lobby Day at State Capitol (773) 477-7173.

Team Chicago benefit with "Spirit"—7pm. Washington Library, 400 S State. Info/tix (312) 409-5155.

Unabridged Bookstore New Town Writers Open Reading/Open Mic, 7:30pm. (773) 883-9119.

Thursday, March 26

Women & Children First presents Rosario Ferre (author of *Nat'l Book Award* finalist *The House on the Lagoon*); her *Eccentric Neighborhoods* tells of two Puerto Rican families' fading sugarcane fiefdoms. 5233 N Clark. (773) 769-9299.

Friday, March 27

Positive Living Expo TPAN & the Forum Advisory Council sponsor Chicago's largest HIV Treatment Issues & Resources Fair, Univ. Ill. Chicago, 828 S Wolcott. (773) 404-8726.

Tuesday, March 31

Coretta Scott King speaks at Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund's 25th Anniv. Luncheon & Bon Foster Memorial Civil Rights Lecture. Noon, Palmer House; Res. required (312) 663-4413.



The PREMIER discussion group for Suburban Black Gay Men

Meetings every 3rd Wednesday
1145 Westgate #210, Oak Park

For Info call 708-445-2584
Food & Drink Provided

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Harambe Jahard

Women & Children First Books

Sunday, March 1, 3:30 p.m.:

Bebe Moore Campbell:

Singing in the Comeback Choir

Campbell's third novel is a rich, engaging story told with wit and insight about a successful L.A. television executive who returns to her old, deteriorating neighborhood in Philly to help move her ailing grandmother. She comes to understand that both her grandmother and the neighborhood are worthy of care and restoration. Bebe Moore Campbell is an NPR commentator and the author of two critically-acclaimed novels, *Your Blues Ain't Like Mine* and *Brothers and Sisters*.

Sunday, March 8: Celebrate Women's History!

Celebrate Our New, Expanded Bookstore

10:30 a.m.: Stories and songs celebrating women with Linda Bubon/Susan Salidor

1-3 p.m.: Champagne reception for Chicago women writers

4 p.m.: Book Discussion, *The Handmaid's Tale*, led by Bernadine Dohrn. Co-spons. by Amnesty International at Ann Sather's, upstairs.

6-8 p.m.: Benefit for Jan Schakowsky—Meet the candidate, Carol Ronen, Dawn Clark Netsch and others. (\$10)

Visit our website at

[http://www.womenand](http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com)

[childrenfirst.com](http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com)



5233 N. Clark • Chicago, 60640 • (773) 769-9299

THEATRE

Openings/Previews

Feb 25: Imagine Drowning a bleak boarding house on the Cambrian coast as a journalist disappears from a protest; Strawdog, (773) 528-9696.

March 1: Warrior Queens A 3rd annual Women in History Month Project has "Geraldine Ferraro" commenting in an exploration of female rulers who led their countries to battle. Thru Apr 19 Footsteps Th, (773) 878-4840.

March 5: The Hooch Drama about black men and war thru April 12, ETA Square, (773) 752-3955.

March 5: A Piece of My Heart Vietnam War from the perspective of six women from different walks of life from the late 60s in Vietnam to the dedication of the Vietnam Memorial in the 80s. NEIU Stage (773) 794-6652.

March 6: Ntozake Shange's For Colored Girls who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf A meditation on trial and triumph for African American women, featuring the women of Samana. JuJu Sauce Productions presents with South Shore Cultural Center for the second annual Paul Robeson Series. JuJu does classic works of the African American stage & Samana is a quintet of African American women multi-instrumentalists merging traditional West African chants, percussion, harp and flute South Shore Cultural Ctr (312) 747-2580.

March 6: Blues for an Alabama Sky by Pearl Cleage. Drama of four friends at the end of Harlem's Renaissance and the beginning of the Depression. Goodman (312) 443-3800.

March 16: Warrior real life adventures of Hannah Snell, disguised as a man and served six tours of duty with the British Navy in the 1700s. Famous Door Th, (312) 322-9150.

March 21: The Wizard of Oz with Mickey Rooney as the Wizard and Eartha Kitt as the

Wicked Witch. Rosemont Th thru April 5. Ticketmaster.

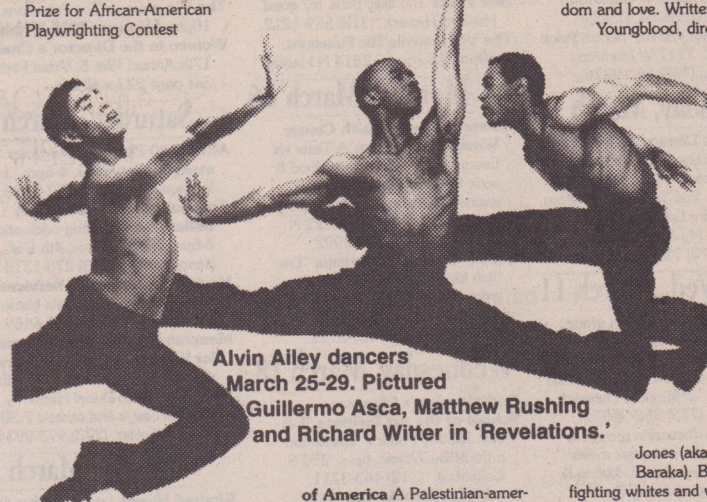
In Performance

Before My Eyes, Joel Drake Johnson's play about a gay man's relationship with his devoted parents, Victory Gardens (773) 871-3000.

Black Caesar by Chicagoan David Barr, Theodore Ward Prize for African-American Playwriting Contest

Maxell as African and African-American heroines Sojourner Truth; 15 yr old Elizabeth Eckford (who integrated Little Rock's schools); Winnie Mandela; Ida B. Wells; and Henrietta King. Noon, Northern Indiana Arts (219) 836-1839

In the Heart



Alvin Ailey dancers
March 25-29. Pictured
Guillermo Asca, Matthew Rushing
and Richard Witter in 'Revelations.'

sponsored by Columbia College Chicago. (312) 344-6126.

Chicago's Golden Soul a musical celebration of artists who propelled Chicago 60s-70s soul music, into national fame. Black Ensemble Th, open run (773) 769-4451

David's Redhired Death Two women find new life in each other, creating a world all their own to protect them from a real world that never knew them. Siren Productions, Chicago's newest theatre company. Chopin Th Studio, thru March 1 (773) 525-2618.

Dead of Night: The Execution of Fred Hampton based on controversial 1969 police raid resulting in the death of Black Panther leader Hampton. Thru Apr 5 Pegasus Players, (773) 878-9761.

Echoes of the Past Maxine

of America A Palestinian-american woman searches for a brother who disappeared during the Gulf War. With his lover in a small Kentucky hotel room, she learns the truth. Thru Feb 28, About Face (312) 409-4863

Julius Caesar Chicspeare Production Co. uses Chicago history and personalities from the mayoral election of 1983: council wars, shifting alliances between the "29" and the "21", Vrydolyak and Washington's rhetoric and maneuvers against change. TinFish, (773) 769-2056.

Kiss of the Spider Woman—The Musical. Molina, a gay window dresser incarcerated for deviant behavior, brings cellmate Valentin, a tough revolutionary, into his rich imaginary life. Thru Mar 1, Apple Tree (847) 432-4335

Late Nite Catechism Ivanhoe Th (773) 975-7171.

Mr. Nanny Ivanhoe Th, open run. (773) 975-7171.

RENT Shubert, Thru Mar 8. (312) 902-1500.

Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery A Black girl in the 60s South orphaned and raised by the non-traditional older women in the community. At the tender age of 12, she begins her journey to womanhood guided by their wisdom and love. Written by Shay Youngblood, directed by

Lisa Duncan, choreographed by Allison Sciplin. Chicago Thtr Co, Parkway Playhouse, 500 E. 67th St. (773) 493-5360. **The Slave** by LeRoi

Jones (aka Amiri Baraka). Blacks are fighting whites and winning. A Negro poet and leader of the Negro forces crosses the battlelines to visit his former white wife, now married to a white liberal professor, to reclaim his "mulatto" children. \$8 Voltaire, thru March 21 (312) 905-2212.

DANCE

Feb 26: Hip Hop Life Rennie Harris Pure Movement MCA Th, (312) 397-4010.

Feb 28: Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal College of DuPage, Arts Center (630) 942-4000.

March 4: 1998 Spring Festival of Dance Mar 4-May 3. by Dance Center-Columbia College. Chicago companies Ballet Chicago, Hubbard Street Dance, Joffrey Ballet, Muntu Dance Theatre, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Co. by Performing Arts Chicago and Garth Fagan Dance presented by Africa International House. (312) 629-8696.

March 8: Black Umfolosi African a cappella and dance group. Part of *Also From Africa*, in conjunction with the Art Institute's Baule: African (312) 443-3600.

March 16: Three Cheers: Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago Contemporary and ancient African and African American dance and music. Cassidy Th, (773) 871-0872.

March 21: Performance: African Roots/ Contemporary Rhythms Chicago Dance Coalition interprets African dance from traditional through tap and hip hop, 1:30 and 2:30pm. Art Institute (312) 443-3600.

March 25: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater 40th Anniversary four premieres, plus revivals and favorites, thru March 29, Auditorium Th, (312) 902-1500.

ART/PHOTO

Art Institute of Chicago Baule:

African Art/Western Eyes, videos of secular and sacred performances, wood sculpture of "spirit spouses", ivory, bronze, and gold from Baule, on the Ivory Coast, thru May 10. *Twenty Years of Textile Society Collecting (1978-1998)* includes 90 European, American, and African pieces. *Concept /Image/Object: Recent Gifts from The Lannan Foundation.* The work of Keith Haring among 106 key works, thru Mar 8. *Illustrations by Jan Spivey Gilchrist*, featuring children's book illustrations by the Corretta Scott King award-winner, thru Mar 1. (312) 443-3600.

School of the Art Institute

Sexing Myths: Representing Sexuality in African American Art Contemporary African-American work shows complex relationships between sexuality and race in American society. Thru March 4. (312) 443-3703.

Beacon Street Gallery African Cultural Expressions, a retrospective of Chicago-based photographer Bob Richards' photo and multi-media collection celebrating African culture in the new world. Thru Mar 15. *New Zealand Today: Maori Viewpoints* Mar 20 thru May



Mbilo Portrait Mask of a Woman, part of Art Institute's Baule exhibit.

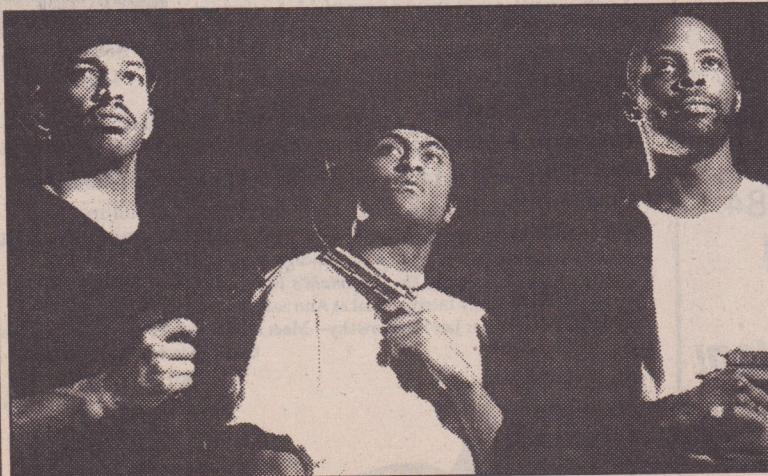
23. (773) 769-4284.

The Dusable Museum of African American History Ernie Banks, photo and memorabilia retrospective; *Amistad* thru June 30. (312) 947-0600.

Noyes Cultural Arts Center Gallery O, Write My Name, American Portraits—Harlem Heroes Exhibit and performance: Photos by Carl Van Vechten, of African American poets, writers, painters, activists and performers of the Harlem Renaissance. Exhibit thru March 7. (847) 491-0266.

Woman Made Gallery First International Open, 1900 S. Prairie. (312) 328-0038

Yamada Art Center From Black Slaves to Black Indians: A History of Black New Orleans Black Indians in paintings by Takeshi Yamada, a visual anthropologist and artist. 1336 W. Ohio, (312) 243-0032.



Dead of Night: The Execution of Fred Hampton, Feb. 24-April 5 at Pegasus Players. Anthony Fleming (center) plays Hampton; Lawrence White (LEFT) and Charles Glenn also star.

1973-1998



**Lambda Legal Defense
and Education Fund, Inc.**

**25th Anniversary Luncheon
& Bon Foster Memorial
Civil Rights Lecture**

featured speaker

Coretta Scott King

**Tuesday
March 31, noon
Palmer House**

Honorary Co-Chairs
*Maggie C. Daley
Rev. Dr. Kenneth B. Smith*

Event Co-Chairs
*Lisa D. Freeman
Steve Wakefield*

*Advance Reservations Required
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flow ~ notes from the BLACKLINES Music Department

Martha Wash

The Collection, subtitled "The Woman, The Voice," is a new release from one of the greatest backup singers in the music industry, Martha Wash. Martha studied opera and toured Europe while in her high school years. I think Martha has finally found the courage within to realize how talented she really can be. This new release features some of her old hits including the hotly awaited sequel to "It's Raining Men" (it would have been a fantastic sequel except for the useless warbling of RuPaul), "Strike It Up," "Gonna Make You Sweat (Everybody Dance Now)."

"Taking Away Your Space" was written by the late Sylvester for Martha during the time she performed as part of the duo Two Tons of Fun. The tune is somewhat haunting and quite fantastic at the same time.

The Collection has three new recordings especially prepared for this album. "God Bless the Road" gives a hint of gospel with a choir sounding great near the end of the song, "Catch The Light" and "Come" with its African beats.

The album covers a variety of musical arenas including gospel, dance, and r&b in the songs "Give It To You," "Someone Who Believes In You," "Keep On Jumpin'" (with Joycelyn Brown), "Its True I Do," and "Takin' Over."

—Israel Wright



Martha Wash

Musical Memories

"Respect," Aretha Franklin

"This song reminds me of when I was a child and every week my mother would buy a new record, (45rpm). We would go over to her friend's house and they would want to see the latest dances."

"Stay in My Corner," The Dells

"This reminds me of a train trip I took with my family from Washington, D.C. to South Carolina. There wasn't much to do in the country but ride around. I liked it because it was the start of my teenage years."

"Innervisions," Stevie Wonder

"When I was in college, one spring break a friend and I hitchhiked to Boston. We had a really good time."

Madame Butterfly

"We would visit an older gentleman, around my college campus. He lived in a big victorian house. He would have students over and cook Mexican food. I knew nothing about cooking then. Those were some very good times."

This month's Musical Memories are from Laurie Holland

Dianne Reeves

Concert review by Jano

Dianne Reeves is smack-dab in the middle of the generation gap. She is a bridge that connects the past (Sarah Vaughn, Della Reese, Ella Fitzgerald) with the future. Her music continues the rich heritage of African-American history of song by allowing the listener to revisit a collective past, through a contemporary voice. Her musical anthropological talents feel mystical. The interpretation of the musical scales allows you to regress in time, understanding history in a new light.

Reeves' recent visit to the Cubby Bear lounge brought together a throng of music lovers. Many, who admittedly are going thirsty in a fresh water lake: so much new music, very little with an original

stamp. She opened the show with Johnny Nash's "Sunshiny Day", which was a nice, "welcome to my show" song. The sunshine was actually beaming through her notes, eyes and smile and you believed that the rain had actually moved out of her life. Not once did she complain about the way the music industry has treated African-American history. She continued to bow to her forefathers and uplift the culture. Supported by a keyboard, drums, percussion and bass, although extremely complementary, she very well could have accomplished this mission a cappella.



Dianne Reeves

Reeves' latest album, *That Day* (Blue Note), was the centerpiece of her show. The title song is an old Nikki Giovanni poem put to music. Alas, Giovanni is more understandable, interpreted through Reeves. "When we did it that day..." caused sighs of recognition as she unraveled the story of one "not in love but open to persuasion."

This new album is full of love songs, not an unusual theme but love can look different on everyone. "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow" was barely recognizable as a '60s hit (Shirelles). The slowed down, contemplative mood gave it a new meaning. It didn't make you want to role your eyes at yet another remake; it made you wish that other artists would take the risk in their arrangements instead of riding the coattails of others' accomplishments. This is what originality means.

Hearing Reeves is a baptismal. She takes you to the water and washes you off. Her range and clear-as-a-bell clarity emancipates you and restores your hope. Her moans and her hums have as much power as her words. You remember beauty; you remember truth and are grateful for opportunity to feel it again.

Of course she could not leave without singing her biggest commercial hit, the grandma song, "Better Days." However, she ended with "Never Too Far" which seemed to convey a message of her gratitude to the audience.

When you get home from work, what do you listen to?

K.L. Glover, writer: Joan Armatrading/*What's Inside*: "I like lyrical music."

Sherodney Vanchilds, owner of Black Orchid Floral Designs:

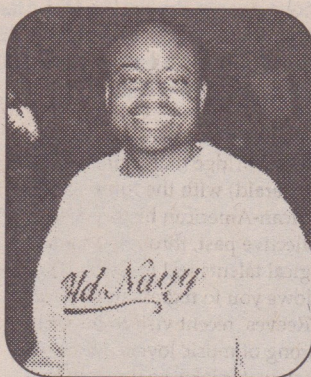
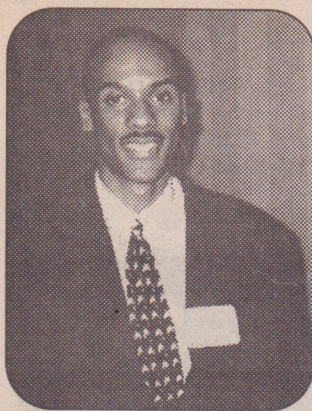
Janet Jackson/*The Velvet Rope*: "It helps me to unwind."

Paula Neely, arts administra-

tion: Ani DiFranco/*Not a Pretty Girl*: "I really like Ani because she tells it like it is."

Cheryl Cooper, finance administration: David Lantz/*Christophi's Dream*: "It clears everything in your head."

Robert Schultz, activist: Dianne Reeves/*The Day*: "We just picked that up recently."



From the top: Keith Boykin. Author James Earl Hardy. Keynote speaker Andrea Sullivan. The Lady Chabliiss.



300 at Forum

Text and Photos by Lester Davis

In the midst of the chaos in Washington, D.C., with President Clinton's personal troubles and the nation on the brink of war with Iraq, the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum celebrated their 11th Annual Conference in metro D.C. Feb. 12-15. There were about 300 at this year's conference, whose theme was "embracing ourselves, empowering our communities." The conference began with a Health and Wellness Institute and ended with Keith Boykin's last official day as executive director of the Forum, Feb. 15.

Boykin decided to step

down to pursue his writing career—he expects his next book will be in stores by the end of summer. A replacement was announced during the Saturday awards banquet by Willa Jonelle Taylor, Forum board president: Jubi D. Headley Jr., is the new Forum executive director.

Headley has lived in D.C. for two-and-a-half years and worked for the U.S. Conference of Mayors during that time. He is charismatic, and has served as a volunteer with the Forum. His vision is to focus more on communicating with the Forums' membership, the Millennium Project, youth and transgender participants. There will be coverage of the Conference and additional comments from Headley in next month's BLACKLINES.

A discussion group for Gay & Bi Brothers of Color



Meetings 2nd & 4th Wednesdays,
starting at 6:30 pm

Grand Boulevard Plaza
Sinai Family Health Centers
5401 S. Wentworth in Chicago

773.907.8993

<http://www.outwire.net/imani>

Preston L. Shumaker, Workshop Coordinator
Sponsored by Sinai Family Health Centers

MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE



M. Eliza Hamilton

Saturday, March 21

Women of Color Poetry

Join nationally renowned poets M. Eliza Hamilton, Duriel Harris, Melysha Sargis and others in an evening of music and words that recall and reinvent who we are as womyn-loving-womyn, keepers of the gates, lovers of life. Bring a friend to share in an evening of memory, laughter, ancestral callings, and wisdom. Copies of M. Eliza's latest book, *The Last Time You Left Me*, will be available for purchase.

Saturday, April 18 **Jamie Anderson**

Touring nationally since 1987, Jamie has entertained in hundreds of venues all over the midwest. She has 5 recordings including the newest one, *Never Assume*. "She sings funny and touching songs about the life and romances of an average goddess babe lesbian ..." — A.B. in DIRTY LINEN.

Saturday, May 9 **Barbara Higbie & Teresa Trull**

The reunion of singer-songwriter Teresa Trull and pianist/singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist Barbara Higbie, is a long-awaited musical event.



1650 West Foster
Ebenezer Lutheran Church

Showtime 7:30 p.m..

Women & Children Only. Suggested Donation. 773-973-9934



TOP THREE PHOTOS, and BELOW, LEFT: Pictured are folks at various events during the Mid-Atlantic Leather Contest weekend in Washington, D.C. in January. BELOW, RIGHT: Jill Carter, International Ms. Leather 1996. MIDDLE: Austin Wilson. BELOW: Photos by Israel Wright



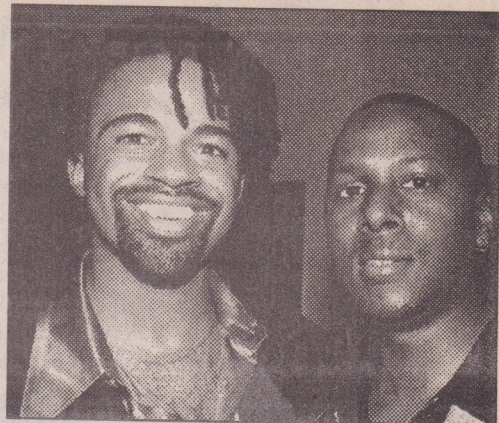
ABOVE, RIGHT: Singer Mary Wilson entertains at the Bringing Our Hearts Together weekend of benefits for AIDS and cancer groups. Photo by Israel Wright. BELOW are just a few of the many entertainers, performers and speakers lending their talents to the wonderful annual Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast. From left: Boris Powell in his energetic and hilarious channeling of Harriet Tubman. Singer Amirah Watkins-Brown. Performer Alden Bell. And middle, right: Organizer Sherri Jackson. Others performers included C.C. Carter, Kathleen Rose Winter, Sanford Gaylord, W.D. Parnell, and Donna Rose. Photos by Israel Wright



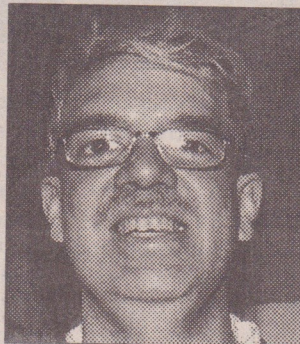


Bayard Rustin Awards

The Greater Chicago Committee held their Bayard Rustin Awards at DuSable Museum in February. TOP, LEFT: GCC's Derrick Hicks (left) and Jim Harvey with Christian Kostrau of Absolut, which helped sponsor the awards. RIGHT: Rashad Burgess (left), named Youth Activist of the Year, with LeRoy. Photos by Tracy Baim



BELOW: Enjoying the reception before the awards were Jamie and Laquita. MIDDLE, RIGHT: Lorraine Sade Baskerville (left) and Lynnell Long (right) were both up for the Georgia Black Award for transgendered activism (along with Ramona Hernandez). Long received the honor. They're pictured with an It's Time Illinois! activist. MIDDLE: DJ of the Year nominee Tyrone Mixx (also nominated were Ron Carroll and Ralph White; White won). BELOW, RIGHT: Melanie and Conrad. Photos by Tracy Baim. Other winners: Business of the Year Club Escape; Social Organization Brothers United in Support; Female of the Year Jackie "Mickey" Johnson; Community Service AFFINITY; Black Kettle Award A Real Read; Party C.C. & Verna's Backyard Party; Male of the Year Kenny Davis; Activist Michael O'Connor; and Person of the Year Clarence Woods. The Board of Director's Award went to Sidney Thomas. The Founder's Award to Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. And the President's Award to Alden Bell.



The Bryan Davis Memorial Benefit was held at Ann Sather's. Bryan's mother, Roslyn, hosts the event in her son's memory, and this year proceeds went to Greater Chicago Committee. ABOVE: Roslyn and Shirley King (who entertained at the benefit; she's B.B. King's daughter). RIGHT, front: Roslyn, Carolyn Smith and Lori Parker. BACK: Martin Gonzalez, Craig Foley, Bernedetta Cameron, Anthony Cameron, Mrs. Kevin Davis, Evelyn Davis. Photos: Israel Wright



Angela Davis Still Speaking Out: This Time About Women Blues Singers

by LaJaunessee Jordan

1970's revolutionary Angela Davis was in town recently speaking and promoting her new book. Although she came out as a lesbian in the February issue of *OUT* magazine, her only reference to homosexuality was including homophobia on a "laundry list" of things we should all fight against. Much of her presentation

\$27.50) are Gertrude "Ma" Rainey, Bessie Smith and Billie Holiday. Davis says what is interesting and provocative about these women's work is "the ways in which hints of feminist attitudes emerge from their music through fis-

in moving away from the blues and establishing jazz vocals with a genius and originality that has yet to be surpassed, remains solidly anchored in the blues tradition [Holiday]," Davis said. "All of their performances

"Women's blues specifically celebrated and valorized Black working class life while simultaneously contesting patriarchal assumptions about women's place both in the dominant culture and within African-American communities," Davis said. In the chapter "Preaching the Blues" she discusses the relationship between the blues and the Black church. She talks about Rainey no longer singing the blues after becoming devoted to church and how blues and sexuality are related to the Devil and sin. She also makes a similar comparison to the character of Shug Avery in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*.

The entire second half of *Blues Legacies and Black Feminism* consists of lyrics to all available songs—a total of 252—recorded by Rainey and Smith so that one may examine the points argued by Davis throughout the book. The arguments made by Davis—about the effects of racism, patriarchy, and sexuality (to name a few) on the blues and these women singers—are very credible. This book is likely to be used in Music, Women's Studies and African-American Studies classes throughout the country and should be read by all.



FROM LEFT: Gertrude "Ma" Rainey, Bessie Smith and Billie Holiday.

was on her being an advocate of prison abolition and her critique of racism in the criminal justice system. Davis is a professor in the History of Consciousness Dept. at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She will return to Chicago in March to autograph copies of her book *Wed.*, March 25 at *Afrocentric Books*. (See *BLACKLINES* calendar.)

Angela Davis has a new book that addresses the role of music in race, popular culture and American social values, through the music, lyrics and performances of three blues/jazz singers. The three Black women who are the focus of historical and cultural analysis in *Blues Legacies and Black Feminism* (Pantheon Books,

sures of patriarchal discourses." The book politicizes the tradition of Black popular music by women and argues that it represents a covert tradition of popular memory and Black working-class opposition to the more dominant white mainstream and Black middle class. The author examines lyrics that relate to extra-marital relationships, domestic violence and homosexuality, among other topics. Davis expresses a radical advocacy of women's independence and a fierce control of women over their own lives. "I attempt to explore the feminist implications of the recorded performances of these three women: one who stands at the beginning of the classic blues tradition [Rainey], another who pushes the blues form to its very limits and begins to use popular song as a blues vehicle [Smith], and yet another who,

illuminate the politics of gender and sexuality in working class Black communities."

Davis points out several lyrics relating to homosexuality. One such example is in Rainey's "Prove It on Me Blues." The song's lyrics include the following: "They said I do it, ain't nobody caught me/Sure got to prove it on me/Went out last night with a crowd of my friends/They must've been women. 'cause I don't like no men." Davis wrote that the song was advertised [including in the *CHICAGO DEFENDER*] showing Rainey in a man's hat, jacket and tie, while obviously trying to seduce a couple of women.



Angela Davis (right) with *BLACKLINES* managing coordinator LaJaunessee Jordan. Photo by Israel Wright

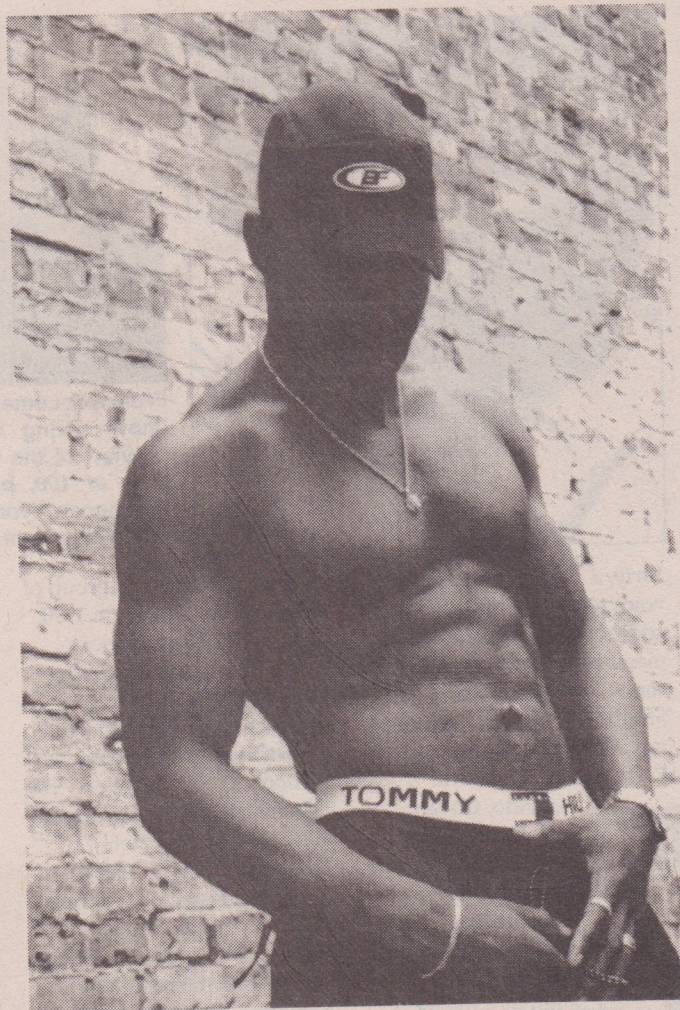
Because life got much too intense, I have not written an editorial for this issue of BLACKLINES. However, I would like to suggest that you celebrate Womyn's History Month and don't forget to vote. —La]

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Women's Film Fest

Treats in March

Black women artists will make a strong showing in Women in the Director's Chair's 17th International Film and Video Festival, in Chicago March 20-22 and 27-29. Films and videos from South Africa, Haiti, Great Britain, Cuba and the United States demonstrate a broad spectrum of Black women's experiences, perspectives and creative endeavors.

Women in the Director's Chair is the largest and longest-running international festival of films and videos by women.

Highlights include:

▼ **"Comrade Sisters: Black Women on the 'The Revolution,'"** a screening and panel discussion on the complex roles that Black women played in social and political protest in the 1960s and '70s, particularly as members of the Black Panther Party, and continue to play today. Panelists will include Jamika Ajalon, British film and video maker (*Memory Tracks*, an experimental journey in search of a sister spirit from the '70s), essayist, and

youth organizer (and former Chicagoan); Pylliss J. Jackson, documentary videomaker (*Comrade sister... Voices of Women in the Black Panther*

ries through the films *Uku Hamba 'Ze/To Walk Naked*, Jacqueline Maingard, Sheila Meintjes, and Heather Thompson, South Africa, a



From a documentary on Ruth Ellis, the oldest known living African-American lesbian. A preview of the film, *Living With Pride: Ruth Ellis at 100*, be shown March 28; it's by Chicagoan Yvonne Welbon. Ellis is pictured left with a friend, & above with her brothers.

Party, a documentary giving voice to women's inspiring and troubling experiences as members of the party), professor of Art History and Black Studies at Pomona College, member of the Black Panther Party, 1969-1977; Gloria

Rolando, Cuban videomaker (*The Eyes of the Rainbow: Assata Shakur and Oya*, excerpts from a new documentary on the exiled former Panther's life in Cuba), director of Imagines del Caribe Video Group, Havana; and Diane Shelley, member of the Black Panther Party, 1969-1973, Saturday, March 28, 3 p.m., The DuSable Museum.

▼ **"Living History,"** a program featuring recent Diaspora histo-

documentary about a group of Soweto women, who in 1990 brought the South African media to a halt through the protests of the unlawful destruction of their squatter homes by the then Afrikaaner National government, and *The Disappearance of Tisoour: Halt! After Duvalier*, Harriet Hirshorn, US, an exploration of Haiti's struggle for freedom and human rights through a chronicle of critical events over the past decade. Saturday, March 21, 2 p.m., DuSable Museum.

▼ **"Insides/ Outsides,"** an exploration of the complex meanings of race and cultural identity through works including *A Portrait of Mr. Pink*, Helena Appio, Great Britain, a colorful "portrait" of a 73-year-old Jamaican immigrant's recreation of his homeland though his British house and garden, resulting in a displaced tropical palace and a

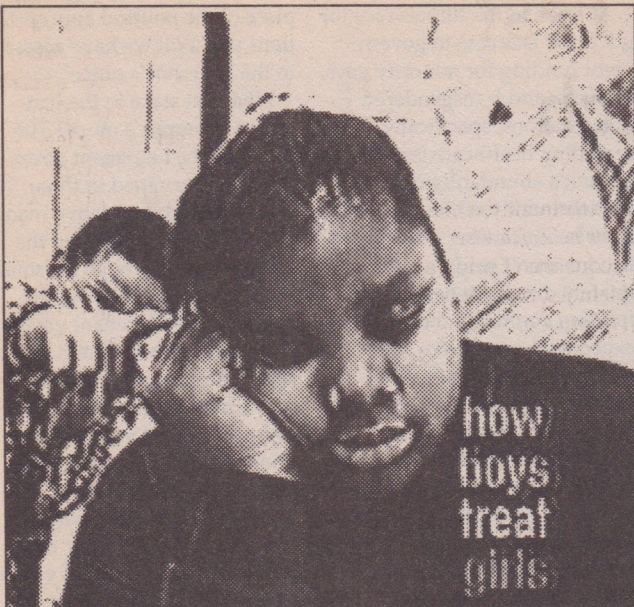
kaleidoscope of stories about art and life; *Politics From a Black Woman's Insides*, Yuko Edwards, one woman's search for information about the Hottentot Venus. The legendary link between ape and human and icon of Black female subjectivity, as she documents the Hottentot's legacy through both scientific discourse and personal narratives. *Nappy*, Lydia Ann

Douglas, US, an examination of the powerful symbolism of the Afro, in which 14 Black women discuss the criticism they faced and the empowerment they gained when they stopped straightening their hair and embraced "the Africa inside me," Saturday, March 21, 4pm, DuSable Museum.

▼ **"Quests: New Lesbian Work, Part 1,"** Saturday, March 21, 8 p.m. at The Hothouse. Jamika Ajalon has *Memory Tracks* in this program. Other films show include *Cracker Barrell My Ass*, *Gifts From My Father* (about the relationship of a young woman with her alcoholic father, thru basketball), *We Always Danced*, *Virgin of the Seas*, *Vanilla Lament* (director Catherine Crouch will be at the event). **"Rebel Grrrls and Riot Grrandmas: New Lesbian Work, Part II,"** Saturday, March 28, 10 p.m., Hothouse.



From 'Nappy,' about the Afro, March 21 at the WIDC festival.



From the 'How Boys Treat Girls' film.

▼ **Local youth videomakers** Shuntaye Moore and Jacqueline Etienne. Moore's piece, *Last Summer Fight*, is an animated re-telling of a real-life incident in which racial slurs become weapons and a simple dispute divides friends forever. Etienne's *How Boys Treat Girls* is a gutsy dissection of how boys see her and how she sees herself. Both of these works will be shown twice during the festival. *Last Summer Fight*, Saturday, March 21, 10 p.m., Hothouse, and Sunday, March 29, 4 p.m., Hothouse; *How Boys Treat Girls*, Saturday, March 28, 6 p.m., The Hothouse, and Sunday, March 29, 4 p.m., Hothouse.

▼ **Local filmmaker** Angela Kates, and her film *Mr. McFarland*, a piece following the elliptical memories of a little girl who witnesses the murder of her friend and neighbor, Mr. McFarland. **Friday, March 20, 7 p.m., The Hothouse.**

▼ *Firefly*, Dawn Suggs, US, Saturday, March 21, 2 p.m., The Hothouse.

▼ *Me-Ba...I'm Coming: A Travelogue*, Kara Lynch, US, Sunday, March 22, 2 p.m., The Hothouse.

▼ *Comrade Sister...Voices of Women in the Black Panther*

Party (excerpts), Phyllis J. Jackson and Christine Minor, US, Saturday, March 28, 3 p.m., DuSable Museum.

▼ *Still Revolutionaries*, Sienna McLean, US, Saturday, March 28, 3 p.m., DuSable.

▼ *The Eyes of the Rainbow* (excerpts), Gloria Rolando, Cuba, Saturday, March 28, 3 p.m. DuSable Museum.

▼ *My Wolverine* (Lorna Ann Johnson, US, Saturday, March 28, 4 p.m., The Hothouse.

▼ *Ruth Ellis*, trailer, by Chicagoan Yvonne Welbon, US, Saturday, March 28, 10 p.m., The Hothouse. (This is part of the Rebel Grrrls program, subtitled Riot Grrrandmas, a look at older lesbians; Ellis is the oldest known living African-American lesbian, age 100.)

Festival venues include: The Hothouse International Performance Center, 31 E. Balbo; The DuSable Museum for African American History, 740 E. 56th Place; Calles y Sueños Culture Center, 1900 S. Carpenter; and The Film Center at the School of the Art Institute, Columbus & Jackson.

Contact WIDC (773) 281-4988 for info on other programs, panels, premieres, and visiting film and video makers.

— E L E C T —

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What's At Stake March 17?

Opinion by Michael O'Connor

What's at stake in this election season?

Gays, lesbians, and transgendered citizens of color—along with thousands of other citizens—have the opportunity to determine what direction the state of Illinois takes in terms of legislating and implementing public policy issues directly influencing the quality of life in Illinois and throughout this country. The primary elections are March 17, and the general elections are in November.

What's at stake in the U.S. Senate race is the support of the first African-American woman senator, Carol Moseley Braun. Braun's record as it pertains to mainstream gay and lesbian advocacy is noteworthy. However, five years and two months and counting in to Senator Braun's term, she still hasn't found time to publicly or privately meet with gays, lesbians, or transgendered organizational leaders in communities of color, nor has she attended events sponsored by gay, lesbian, transgendered organizations of color! Why? Should gays, lesbians and transgendered citizens of color continue to support Sen. Braun? The senator has frequently attended events sponsored by predominately white gay organizations who have continued to ignore issues of concern raised by gay, lesbian, and transgendered groups of color. What if gays, lesbians, and transgendered citizens of color chose not to endorse Sen. Braun re-election efforts? Are we throwing the baby out with the bathwater? Are we appropriately responding to Braun's inappropriate response to us?

At stake specifically for gays, lesbians, and transgendered citizens of color in the congressional races is the question of equal protection under federal law. As the law now stands, the lesbian and transgendered communities have no federal protection from discrimination.

The 105th congressional session voted to send house bill HR 1858 (ENDA, The Employment Non-Discrimination Act) to four separate subcommittees led by four different conservative Republican members of Congress; this referral tactic is commonly known as "burying in committee." The ENDA bill simply states that a person's sexual orientation can't be a factor in terminating an employee. This bill is still "buried in committee" as of its referral date of June 10, 1997. Democratic congressman William Lipinski of the 3rd Congressional District refused to co-sponsor the bill.

Another law passed that's considered by most gays, lesbians, and transgendered persons to be offensive is the Defense of Marriage Act. Senate bill 1740 and House bill 3396 were introduced in the House and Senate and passed with flying colors. Although freshman congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. of the 2nd Congressional District spoke out and voted against this bill, which would only recognize heterosexual marriages, Democratic Congressman Bobby Rush of the 1st District voted for the measure! At stake here is the question of supporting a congressional lawmaker whose views may have shifted as it concerns certain gay and lesbian rights. Do we kick Rep. Rush to the curb by not supporting his re-election efforts because of this one issue? After all, Rush did co-sponsor the ENDA bill. Do we continue to educate and dialogue and put public pressure on this congressional representative and hope he'll see the light? What's at stake for gays, lesbians, and transgendered persons in the 1st District is the opportunity to choose a lawmaker who understands that oppression comes in many forms, especially in the halls of Congress. Do those who politically disrespect us every so often still deserve our finan-

cial support or our votes?

At stake in the Illinois race for governor is access to government funding for minority gays, lesbians, and transgendered organizations, specifically regarding healthcare issues. Since it's abundantly clear that predominantly white gay lakefront healthcare services organizations aren't ready to adequately distribute healthcare funding equitably, shouldn't we expect assistance from state elected officials concerning health issues affecting our communities? So far, with the exception of Roland Burris, not one of the gubernatorial candidates has attempted to outreach into the gay, lesbian, and transgendered organizations of color for any kind of support. Is this non-acknowledgement by other gubernatorial candidates a result of the constituency's ignorance, bigotry, or both? Mr. Burris has been an elected official in the state of Illinois for more than 16 out of the 23 that he's been active in Illinois politics. Two other gubernatorial candidates have never been elected to public office. Another gubernatorial candidate is the U.S. Democratic congressional legislator Glenn Poshard. He's a politically conservative, downstate, pro-choice opponent who refused to co-sponsor ENDA and who voted yes for DOMA. Roland Burris' critics, mostly in the white gay community, are implying that he is homophobic. Of course, these are some of the same critics who stated four years ago that State Sen. Earlean Collins was homophobic, even though Collins' Chief of Staff at the time was the first and only openly gay HIV-positive African-American man in the state of Illinois employed as a legislative staff person.

What's at stake in the governor's race is the appointment of hundreds of key administrators, including directors, with approval by the Illinois Senate. What's at stake? Some would say the \$32.6 billion, including \$16.4 billion in general revenue funds. Will gay and lesbian

organizations of color get a piece of the political appropriations pie? Will we have access to the governor's office?

What's at stake in the lieutenant governor's office? The duties of the lieutenant governor are determined in three ways: through legislative mandate, by assignment from the governor and through personal initiative of the office-holder. Recently, the lieutenant governor has been the point man for statewide education issues, substance abuse prevention strategy partnership for a drug-free Illinois, parenting partnership, rural issues, environment, and technology. The lieutenant governor becomes governor if the current governor should vacate office before the term is completed. What's at stake? Access to an office which controls approximately \$2.8 million in the state budget. Currently, there hasn't been any voter outreach to lesbian and gay groups of color by any of the candidates, including the incumbent.

What's at stake in the Secretary of State's race is political influence for gay, lesbian, and transgendered organizations of color. This office is the second largest constitutional office in Illinois. The Secretary manages 18 statewide agencies, including the business services, legislative affairs, state police, and an approximately \$265-million budget. In this race, only African-American candidate and Cook County Recorder of Deeds Jesse White has indicted any wish for political support from gay, lesbian, and transgendered organizations of color.

What's at stake in the Attorney General's office is a \$36.8-million budget, access to jobs, and access to the \$10 million distributed from the Attorney General's office and given to social services groups that assist crime victims. Currently, none of the candidates nor the incumbent has expressed an interest in targeting voters in the gay, lesbian, and transgendered organizations of

Turn to page 28

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To Your Health: Growing Younger

by Lawrence Moore

Our future is made up of our present. Our present is the accumulation of our past. It is the present that is the linchpin of our reality. It is through our present that we may adjust our past and create our future.

Our bodies are our vehicles of freedom in this life. We are able to interact with our environment, respond to stimuli, and have an impact on our surroundings through our bodies. How we treat and care for them play a great role in determining the amount of physical freedom and enjoyment we may derive from living.

Most people don't take the time to care for their bodies. An athlete may spend a lifetime training his or her body. However, most physical training programs are geared toward the relatively short-term goals of the participant. Developing greater amounts of strength, speed, and/or stamina is not the same as taking care of your body. You may talk to any athlete who has retired. He or she will tell you all about the aches and pains that they still suffer due to the rigorous training that they have undergone.

People who lead a sedentary life also neglect their bodies. The body is a very fine tool that needs to be cared for. The body is our automobile. Imagine the tin woodsman from *The Wizard of Oz*, stuck in the forest unable to move. When it started raining he was an active man chopping wood. The rain made his joints stiff. If he had moved his body continuously he would have been able to save himself. Each time his

movement stopped, his ability to move was reduced. Soon he wasn't able to move at all.

The same thing happens to human beings, just not as fast. It may happen so slowly. Perhaps, one day when you look in the mirror you will be surprised at who looks back, wondering "Where did my youth go?" Maybe you can remember being able to touch your toes or clasp your hands behind your back. Many of us as we grow older bend our bodies less; as a result, we have less ability to bend. The less we move the less we are able to move. When we try to touch our toes, not only do we not succeed but we also experience much pain in the process. Our muscles atrophy, our flexibility stiffens, and our vitality diminishes. Toxins build up in the body and our ability to eliminate them becomes impaired. This is called aging. It happens to everyone. It can not be stopped. The older we get the more this process seems to accelerate.

Aging cannot be stopped. However, the rate at which you age may be slowed down. We have all seen people in their 50s who look like they are still in their 30s or people in their 70s who are enjoying active lives free from disabling pains. We have also seen young men in their 20s who look as if they have lived a long and hard life which may come to an end at any moment.

It is possible for you to retard your aging process. It is best to start a program while you are young and continue it throughout your life.

However, no matter what

stage in life you are in, starting a holistic health maintenance practice will have positive effects. The keys to youthfulness include joy and happiness, equilibrium of the mind, a diet that provides for your particular needs, and beneficial physical activities. Each one of these keys is interconnected; by starting on one it may lead you to another.

One of my specialties is beneficial physical activities. If you have never entered upon a regular physical training program or if you have been athletic all of your life a holistic body work program is excellent therapy for you. A good program will reduce pain, increase flexibility, assist your body in the elimination of toxins, enhance your immunity factor, increase the circulation of bodily fluids throughout your body, reduce swelling, and relieve stress and tension. The dynamics of someone else working on your body is much different than what you could create by doing it on your own. With the assistance of a trained therapist you may experience a healthier, more lively, and energetic body at a faster and deeper rate than what you may accomplish alone.

You are trying to find the therapist that is best for you. The technique is important. However, it is the therapist's skill in using that particular technique that is going to make the difference. Look for the therapist first and the technique second.

Relax and enjoy the search. You may have to try many different therapists in order to find the right one. That is OK. Remember, you are doing this for yourself. Stick to the ones that you feel comfortable with. Be honest with yourself. Try a therapist for a reasonable amount of time. If you see results stick with it. If not,

it is time to make a change.

Be consistent and patient. We have spent a lifetime getting into the state that we are presently in. It is unreasonable to expect someone to completely change your body in 50 minutes. Consistency is important. If your program is once a day, a week, or biweekly it is important to stick with it. The benefits may come slowly but they will come.

There are many different techniques: Thai body work, shiatsu, reflexology, Swedish massage, and others. Different techniques produce different results. Experience them for yourself. Talk with the therapist. You should be able to trust who you are dealing with.

You are responsible for the quality of your life. There are many people out there that are willing to help you, but you must make the first step.

Lawrence Moore is a Licensed and Certified Thai body work specialist. Lawrence is an alumnus of Chicago State University. He is a former member of CSU's wrestling team and a former wrestling coach for Chicago Public Schools. Lawrence has studied Traditional Thai Medical Body Therapy under the foundry of the International Thai Therapist Association (ITTA), Anthony B. James, Ph.D. In addition, he has spent a year training in Vipassana (insight) meditation in Thailand and in Malaysia. Recently, he spent a year in Mexico promoting, teaching, and practicing Thai body therapy. Chicago State's full-time students may receive a 50% discount off of any regular body work session; part-time students receive \$10 off the regular price. Valid I.D. required. Located on the South Side of Chicago, Lawrence may be reached at (773) 779-1986.

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Support in Preparing Gay Asylum Claims

Persecution against sexual minorities is a tragically routine occurrence throughout the world. Consider how in Islamic fundamentalist countries, homosexuality may be punished by the death penalty; in Russia and China, homosexuals are subject to electroshock therapy to convert them into heterosexuals; and in several Latin American countries, death squads hunt and exterminate homosexuals as part of their "social cleansing" efforts. This persecution goes unpunished

when the government inflicts or condones the abuse or mistreatment. Without legal redress available, many victims flee to the United States for safety given the relatively better treatment and rule of law they can find here against such violations.

Homosexuals who have experienced or fear persecution in their homelands have been eligible for asylum in the United States as members of a particular social group since June, 1994 when *Toboso-Alfonso*, 20 I&N Dec. 819 (BIA 1990), the Board of Immigration Appeals case involving a Cuban gay asylum-seeker, was designated as precedent.

On April 1, 1998, an unprecedented one-year filing deadline on asylum claims will take effect, requiring that all asylum applicants file within one year of arrival in the United States unless they can prove "exceptional circumstances" for their failure to file.

Concerned that sexual minorities will fall through the cracks without greater outreach and education to advocates and the gay and lesbian community, the Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights and the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task

Force have produced the publication, *Preparing Sexual Orientation-Based Asylum Claims: A Handbook for Advocates and Asylum-Seekers*.

Authored by Heather McClure, Christopher Nugent and Lavi Soloway, the 178-page handbook provides an in-depth focus on preparing affirmative applications for asylum by gays and lesbians, and insightful information and resources to aid sexual minority asylum-seekers and their advocates in the preparation and representation of bonafide asylum claims.

Foregrounding the needs of sexual minority asylum-seekers, the handbook includes chapters on the history of asylum based on sexual orientation; client-centered approaches to working with the applicant; techniques to raise relevant information and facilitate the client's informed decision of whether to file; step-by-step preparation of the application and the client's affidavit; guidelines and resources for securing supporting documentation for sexual orientation-based claims; considerations when preparing the client to testify; and further resources for legal, social, medical and psychological support for the asylum-seeker. The handbook also addresses legal concerns for HIV-positive asylum-seekers.

The handbook is a component of the Emergency Asylum Campaign launched by the

Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force and the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission to alert potential gay and lesbian asylum-seekers to the April 1st deadline.

Asylum claims by gays or lesbians have been rare with less than 200 identified by the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission in San Francisco.

There are several reasons for the low numbers of these asylum claims: clients' unfamiliarity with their eligibility to apply; reluctance to disclose their fears based on their sexual orientation to a lawyer in this "foreign" land; and advocates' difficulties in eliciting from clients such relevant information or, once discovered, the difficulties in evaluating or developing asylum claims.

"It is our hope that the handbook will serve as an invaluable resource to get the word out to potential asylum-seekers about the April 1st filing deadline and to support practitioners' rigorous evaluation, preparation and representation of gay and lesbian asylum-seekers before Asylum Offices nationwide," said Christopher Nugent.

Preparing Sexual Orientation-Based Asylum Claims: A Handbook for Advocates and Asylum-Seekers is available through the Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights at (312) 629-4500 ext. 4531.

Gerber/Hart Hosts African-American History Event

On Friday, Feb. 27, the Gerber/Hart African-American and Black Archives & Collection will host a reception at the DuSable Museum, 740 E. 56th Place, in Washington Park. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 9:30 p.m. Call (773) 883-3003 to RSVP. Refreshments will be served. Community members will have the opportunity to meet Kathleen Rose Winter, the Curator of the African-American and Black Archives & Collection. Volunteers are needed to work on the collection.

O'CONNOR from 25

color that assist crime victims.

What's at stake in the Office of the Comptroller is a \$33.5-million budget; this office maintains all records and state contracts. The current Comptroller, Loleta Didrickson (now running for U.S. Senate; if she wins the Republican primary, and Braun wins in the Democratic primary, they'll face off in November), voted twice against the Human Rights Bill during her tenure in the General State Assembly as a state representative. The Illinois

Minorities Association in Government, a statewide minority government employees' group, bought full-page advertisements in newspapers all over this state expressing their outrage at Didrickson's hiring practices. None of the candidates seeking to replace her has bothered to seek the gay, lesbian, and transgendered organizations of color formally or informally for our vote!

What's at stake for the gay, lesbian, and transgendered communities of color, as it concerns statewide office seekers?

The vote from our community is what's at stake. Should most of the organizational leadership within the gay, lesbian, and transgendered communities of color continue sitting by idiotically watching the parade of business contract opportunities, job opportunities, influence in public policy issues, and other desperately needed public services slip away again?

Should we, as citizens of this state, challenge those politicians who continue to be ignorant of our very existence? What's at stake in this year's election?

Our very survival!

Michael William O'Connor is Co-Founder of "The Committee," a Political Action Committee; Co-Founding Member of A.P.B.L.G. (Active Proud Black Lesbians and Gays); District Administrative Aide State Representative Constance "Connie" Howard; Co-Founding Member of The Greater Chicago Committee.

See the March 4 and March 11 OUTLINES for a wrap-up of candidates' responses to an OUTLINES/BLACKLINES survey (including questions on gay rights, affirmative action, and pro-choice issues).

What's The "411"

with Preston L. Shumaker
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Make a Change ...

Part II

GOTTA BE REAL

"You gotta mean what you say, You gotta say what you mean. Tryin' to please everyone, Sacrifice your own needs. Check in the mirror my friend, No lies will be told then—Pointin' the finger again — Can't Blame Nobody but You." — Janet Jackson

Hey, kids! As one of your monthly columnists, I deem it to be very necessary to my readers to be as honest as I can regarding all HIV NEGATIVITY aspects, no matter how embarrassing or difficult it may be. My purpose is never to focus on mistakes but rather admit we all do make them. In today's climate, honesty and integrity are rare. Thus, we gotta be real.

In my last column, I urged y'all to make a life change and not a resolution. However, I conveniently neglected to tell you another significant piece that happened to a personal friend of mine. Before I tell you, do you remember the old Bernadette Cooper album, *Drama According to Bernadette Cooper*? You remember the album? Good. On it, there's a song "Stupid" that sums it up. For those who haven't heard the song, it focuses on women who allow themselves to be talked into giving their boyfriends their most prized possessions. It didn't matter whether it was her money, car, home—all done in the name of love. I used to think the song was so damn funny. You see, every comment the young woman would say in an effort to please their man, like "Oh,

baby I'll give you my car"—Bernadette would make the comment, STUPID! Why would anyone simply give her car to a man? She questions. I used to think she was so scandalous. Now, I'm thinking sister made a serious point.

Like some of these women in that song, a good friend of mine, Keith, found himself in this same situation. He, too, found himself giving his most prized possession—his HIV negative status to a man he barely dated nine months. Yes, he, too, carelessly placed himself at risk, fell off of the Safer Sex band wagon and participated in unsafe anal sex. But, he had good reasons. What, you ask?!? Let him tell you himself:

"Cuz, I love him & we're ALWAYS be together." STUPID!

"We're moving in together..." STUPID!

"He's taking me home to meet his family." STUPID!

"He's fine and swept me off my feet!" STUPID!

The condoms were also conveniently swept away, too. Despite the FACT that Keith always had an ample supply of male and female CONDOMS AVAILABLE (thanks to moi), he continued to place himself at highest risk for the virus all in the name of love. As the months continued, he and his boyfriend, Terrance, did used them a couple of times but finally stopped using them altogether. I still remember:

"Well, I, if I could just get the both of us tested twice, we will be okay." STUPID!

"Sweetheart, I want to make love ... to feel all of you..." STUPID!

"We're both monogamous then we shouldn't a need to use them..." STUPID!

"Baby, you mean the world to me and I love the way you feel." STUPID!

Talking about self-inflicted drama?!? Looking back, I suggested to Keith NOT to blame his ex-boyfriend. He didn't do anything Keith didn't ALLOW him to do. He did not put a gun to his head. But, he as well as I have a history of putting others ahead of ourselves in this insane preoccupation to please others. Sound familiar?!? However, like I said in my last column, that's no longer the case—I finally got the message. Even, as I am writing his painful truth down, I feel like so many of us brothers & sisters are secretly participating in this new Barebacking phenomenon. Barebacking is defined as having unprotected anal sex aka NO CONDOMS—Skin on Skin. I think it's something we must talk about freely & and as usual, we are not talking about it! But as with anything, your health management is your RESPONSIBILITY, not your partner's nor your friend's. Think about it!

You must be consistent in practicing safer sex or you will undoubtedly find yourself in the same predicament as my friend, Keith. And for those who find yourself in the same dilemma as him, first, please forgive yourself. You're human and made a mistake. However, STOP right there & commit to not repeating the same mistake! Let this be your wake-up call. Try this ... have a heart-to-

heart talk with your partner. Set aside some quiet time for discussion **outside** of the bedroom! Be frank with him; honesty is a foundation of a healthy monogamous relationship. Retrace the event that led up to the unsafe behavior and see what happened. Acknowledge that you BOTH slipped up. Remind each other of why staying HIV free is important, and promise to make safer sex an essential part of your sex life. Brainstorm ways you can **both** ensure that sex is creative, safer & smart. Think about rewards you can give one another for keeping your promise. Dinner, flowers, a concert or a weekend getaway can work wonders!

If this doesn't work, then maybe you should rethink your relationship. Can you talk with your partner freely? Does he listen to you? Are both of you sharing intimacy or just sex? Take it from me, it's not easy to look at our own life and do inventory but it's very necessary. I even have an assignment: write down the pros and cons of the relationship. Try to be as objective as you can. If your cons are more than the pros, you have your answer! We all have a need to feel special and deserve to be treated as such. Do not settle for less ... or you could get more than you have bargained for!

As for Keith, he has been tested twice within six months and he's still negative. A wise woman once said, "We are not where we could be, we are not where we should be, but thank God, we're not where we used to be!" Keith finally gets it—I hope you do, too! Be good to yourself. You have the power to save yourself—DO IT!

Peace & blessings, readers. Comments? Questions? You can always e-mail me at PrestonMSW@aol.com.

TRANSLUCENT TRANSEXUAL

by **Lynnell Stephanie L.**
Facing Discrimination

I sat in the audience at the Bayard Rustin Awards, waiting for them to announce the winner of the 1998 Georgia Black Award. After reading the nominees, they announced the winner, me. Proudly, I strutted up the stage to receive my award. The acceptance speech I made was about change, acceptance and Unity. I was glad to know that people are becoming more accepting. I thanked the Greater Chicago Committee for having a category awarding a trans person. The entire night I stared at the award. I was thinking about all the articles I wrote and the performances. The thought of Unity, didn't seem like a distant dream anymore.

The day after receiving the award, still smiling, reality sat in hard. Reality that some people will never accept the trans community.

Being a member of "A Real Read," Chicago's Premiere African-American LesBiGayTrans Performance Ensemble, I am also a part of the Women's Component. The Women's Component was scheduled to perform at an event, but three hours before the performance, I was informed I was not welcome because the organization hosting the event was a "Women-born-Women only" environment. The woman that discriminated against me is an older Black woman. How ironic for me to be discriminated against by a Black woman, during Black history month at a Black Herstory event.

Anger soon overwhelmed me as I lashed out the wrong people, soon apologizing. The person I should have lashed out at, is the same person that reads my column every month, just to have something to talk about. Well, like my mother used to say, "It don't mean



nothing, they talked about Jesus Christ too."

My question is, is Unity possible? If so, is it just for lesbians and gays, or is it inclusive to people like me? My mother used to tell me stories of the times she marched with Dr. King and Jessie Jackson. How people from all walks of life would come together, fighting for a common cause, Justice! At times I compare myself to Dr. King. I never had a problem

before I came out. I didn't have to come out, my world was safe. But I tasted freedom. I knew what it was like to walk down the street and people greet you with "Miss and Ma'am." When I visited Mountain Moving

Coffee House in the past, no one noticed me. Today, I am told because I am an out and a proud transsexual woman, I can not perform there. That is the policy of Mountain Moving.

Like Dr. King, I've been to the mountain top. My dream is to help my trans brothers and sisters. Borris Powell, in his performance at the Award's ceremony, said when you've tasted freedom, sometimes you got to go back and help others. I know the only way things are going to change is if someone stands up and fights!

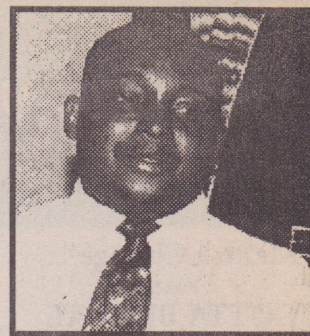
It was my time to go back, that's why I'm out! I believe Unity is possible, but not until Black folks stop discriminating against each other. Some might ask, why do I want to go somewhere like Mountain Moving Coffee House or the Michigan Fest, if transsexuals are not welcome. Those same

people should ask, why did Blacks in the '60s want to drink from all water fountains? Or why did Blacks fight for equal rights, they should have been content with what they were given, right? I won't be happy until trans folks are welcomed EVERYWHERE. There shouldn't be a place discriminating against anyone.

In a world where a lot of people are gender variant, meaning dressing and acting like the opposite sex you were born, how can someone like that not understand? How can some lesbians, known for their 'manly' appearance, discriminate against the trans or gender variant community? How? Because others let them.

If Unity is ever going to be possible, discrimination must be stopped!

Lynnell is the Winner of the 1998 Georgia Black Award. Her e-mail address is Not4men@aol.com



happy when you take a closer look at them. We see people go in and out of relationships as quick as the President can squeeze a rear end or two.

Sure, we have our long-time soap opera couple, but they are rare and few. We have our Erica Kanes, too many of them to be exact. They see a happy home and they decide they want to destroy it. Maybe this isn't their conscious thinking, but in the backs of their minds they think, like Erica, hell, if I can't be happy, no one will.

Well I've had it. I refuse to take part in this vicious cycle we call life. I've decided to rewrite the script and begin again.

No more meeting guys and thinking they can complete me. I am complete. No more looking for Mr. Right; he doesn't exist. I just want Mr. Compatible. No more late-night tears because the guy I gave my heart to tells me how great a guy I am but that he is just not feeling this relationship.

IS there really love? I'm sick of this question. Who knows? I haven't seen it. All of the guys I know have never had it. Sure, they pretend that they do but they don't.

Real love doesn't end; it multiplies like gremlins. So I guess when we expose it to sunlight, we are left only with the destruction it has caused on our lives. I guess I've asked myself so many times "What would I choose, love or money?" I'll take the money because love just leaves you broke.

Choose Life Over Love

by **D.L. Sanders**

I'm surrounded; that's what you say when you don't want to say how crazy and nutty the folks around you seem to be. I know I have to say this, especially recently. See, I've come to this conclusion that when Shakespeare said all the world is a stage and that we are merely players, he was correct. Our lives seem to be one big soap opera or movie after another. We have sequels in our lives; just ask Bill Clinton. The only way we get canceled is by death, but until then we remain on the air. I guess our deal is better than the Hollywood stars.

How, you may ask, can someone so young become so bitter so fast? I don't look at it as being bitter. I think I'm just more up to facing the fact that, like movies and soap operas, there really are no happy endings. Even so-called happy endings are not that

History Through Storytelling

by Kathleen Rose Winter

His laugh is a deep rumble that sounds so fresh, it makes me glad that I tell him stupid jokes. Quiet, he is often in the background doing something very important. Usually seen as "the man behind the camera," Alex (not his real name), comes from a background just as strong and subtle as he is. He was born in 1963, on the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. He is the youngest boy, with two older brothers and one older sister.

His mother and father raised this family in Beaufort, South Carolina. His mother was a school teacher, then a librarian. His father was a teacher and eventually became a school district superintendent. His parents met at South Carolina State University (a historically Black university). Since Alex was significantly younger than his siblings (13 years younger than his oldest brother), he doesn't remember being very close to any of them—with the exception of his sister. However, that was not a barrier to the love, safety, warmth, and security that Alex flourished in.

He lived in the same home throughout his childhood. Located on Duke Street, the structure was a three-bedroom, two-bathroom home, situated on a street where honeysuckle bushes bloomed. There was a large backyard, a frontyard with pecan trees, a screened-in back porch (later converted to a den), and a side porch for sitting outside to enjoy the southern breezes. An added attraction to his home life was an above-ground swimming pool. No violence, no worries; just a childhood where his brothers and sister



always had to take him everywhere; they would do it, but always with the older sibling whine of, "why do we have to take Alex?"

He remembers "liking" males as a young boy, but never did any same-sex sexual experimentation. He had the opportunity when one of his friends wanted "to do something"; Alex just said no. He never acknowledged this wonderful and mysterious same-sex passion. There was a neighborhood boy who had feminine behavioral characteristics. Alex and his friends would tease this boy, often calling him a "fagance" (male fiancé for another male). Even though Alex says that this teasing was in good humor—not malicious—I could tell that he was sorry for bringing some small misery to this little "brother of the soul."

Alex grew up playing with toys that allowed him to build things; however, his favorite toy was the "Barbie" doll. His best friend, a neighborhood girl, would invite him over to her house where they could privately play with "Barbie." Alex had a Black "GI Joe" doll. He would go over to this friend's house under the guise of "Joe" playing with "Barbie." But once there, old "Joe" was on his own. Alex

preferred the "Barbie" doll. He felt compelled to hide this pleasure, even though his parents were liberal about choosing his toys. At age six, he wanted a baby doll for Christmas. His parents got him one. He played with it, but grew bored. He also suspects that he may have felt as if he were breaking an unsaid taboo by playing with this doll.

Alex was a quiet young man who grew up and was seen as "shy." After high school, he went to South Carolina State University. There he had his first romantic relationship—a girlfriend—for two years. Alex knew that he was different; that possibly he was gay. But he ignored it, perhaps hoping "it" would go away. His college girlfriend was a sweet, virginal girl. She never had sex with him. He even tried to encourage her after his roommate told him to try and "get some." But the girl would not "give it up." Alex graduated from South Carolina State with a B.S. in Art Education.

Alex went on to Northern Illinois University (NIU) in DeKalb to continue in graduate study. There, one of only three Black students in the Graduate Art Department, he began to think about his sexuality. He was in denial. One time, a male student who was drunk, said to Alex, "Aren't you gay?" This student continued and tried to "hook up with him." Alex insisted that he was not gay. Later, when the student was sober, he apologized to Alex. Alex was very "liberal"; he told the young man that it was "OK" if the young man was gay ... but he was not.

Later on, Alex discovered that he and the two other Black students were gay. One night, the Black female of the group confessed to Alex that she was lesbian. Alex told her he was gay. During this time, a controversy at NIU was

brewing. NIU protected its students sexual orientation; the ROTC was discriminating against gays and lesbians. Alex was a part of a national news conference that denounced the ROTC. Being "out" like this, Alex telephoned his parents before the news conference. He "came out" to both parents. Initially, his mother took the news well but later became very concerned about his well-being ... his lifestyle. His father was always "OK" with it. After a flurry of letters to her son, Alex's mother began to accept that her son was gay. Even though he feels leery about bringing a boyfriend home to South Carolina, Alex still feels the love and support of his family.

In 1990, Alex received a MFA in Media Studies from NIU. His talents can be seen through his many community activities. He is an artist, a videographer, a director, and a writer. He tries to go to church every Sunday. He is a strong, competent, and humble man. He is every parent's wish, on how to have a son, who eventually becomes a man.

Unity Confab April 3-4

The 1998 Unity Conference will be April 3 & 4. Keynote speakers will be Dr. Marjorie Hill and Phill Wilson.

Hill is a psychologist and assistant vice president for special populations at the New York City Health and Hospital Corp, the nation's largest public health network. She is the former director of the N.Y. City Mayor's Office for Lesbian and Gay Issues. She negotiated the inclusion of a lesbian and gay contingent in their St. Patrick's Day Parade and Mayor Dinkins Marched with the group.

Wilson is an activist and is director of public policy for AIDS Project Los Angeles.

Call Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays for more information on the Unity Conference events. (312) 409-4917.



PERSONALS



HINT: When using the voice response system, increase your chances of a match by choosing the BROWSE option. **WARNINGS:** 1. We no longer accept for print home phone numbers or addresses. 2. Vice officers sometimes respond to suspect ads in an effort to uncover illegal activity. Note: sex-for-money agreements (even if no sex occurs) are illegal. **CODE:** ISO = In Search Of

Men

GBM ISO GM versatile for LTR. Phone/photo get immediate response. No drugs, alcoholics, hustlers need respond. Ready to love? **NLBBox 287**

Turn about. GWM, 50, mostly a top seeks a mostly bottom guy, any race, under 40, interested in receiving AND sometimes giving TT, S&M, CBT, WS, B&D and more. Light to heavy. Curious and beginners welcome. **NLBBox285 (5)**

Attractive GBM, 34. Seeks GBM/GHM tops to meet. Enjoys a variety of things. Not into bars/drug scene. Please write. **NLBBox279 (4)**

GWPM, 6'1", 165#, 45/y/o, athletic in shape, attractive. Enjoys the usual things. Looking for similar, any race, with sense of humor to share the journey. **NLBBox277 (5)**

Couple (34/40) masculine, tall, hairy, mustached, mediterranean type, vicious and sensual in the same time, looking for a third guy. We can meet in Belgium or in your country. Send your photo if possible. Ours in return. **B.P. 2102/B-1000 Bruxelles 1/Belgique (3)**

Passionate and horny GWM 40 5'8" 145, into massage, oral, top ISO Buddy (any race) for hot times and possible LTR. Write **AP Box 481044, Niles, IL 60714 (5).**

LTR wanted, attractive, healthy, very young looking GWM, 61, 6', 185#, blond, beard, N/S, sincere, quiet, laid-back, stay-at-home type. **VOICE52489 (3)**

SBM light skinned, 36, very handsome, seeks a friendship or relationship with slender/feminine pre/post transsexual. Must be very passable. **VOICE52487 (3)**

Love, romance, friendship, endless passionate nights, dreams to share and more, nice looking latino 26, 6', 150. ISO black tall thin guy for serious relationship, you will not be disappointed. **NLBBox269 (5)**

Butch-bottom BM, 38, 6', 195#, HIV-, fit, smart, seeks HIV-, fit, smart, masc top, 35-50. **Fax (202) 546-0219; EMAIL: commuterDC@aol.com (3)**

Slim Black/Hispanic, 25-40, wanted for fun/friendship by goodlooking GWM top, 54, 160#, educated, caring, open-minded. **Photo/phone to Box 6080, Evanston, IL 60204 (3)**

GWM, top, 40s, 6', 170# with thick russet bush looking for GBM, GHM, GWM bottom for friendship. Send recent snapshot **NLBBox271 (3)**

Love sex. Attractive BM top straight acting 5'9" 150# 30yr. Discreet, nice body, seeks slim boyish guys under 35 (any race). **Lee (312) 216-9101 pager.**

Butch-bottom BM, 38, 6', 195#, HIV-, fit, smart, seeks HIV-, fit, smart, masc top, 35-50. **Fax (202) 546-0219; EMAIL: commuterDC@aol.com (3)**

Attr. 41, masc. Black male seeks in shape, stocky, masculine, mature, Black and Hispanic males for fun friendship, outings, and more. Ages 35-59 only (No sissies or transvestites.) **Anthony, PO Box 408443, Chgo, IL 60640. Pager (312) 830-2344. (3)**

BM seeks incarcerated Black males to send true tales of "forced" prison sex. Erotic imagination, realistic dialogue, and good writing skills. Please send to: **1507 E. 53rd, Box#674, Chicago, IL 60615-4509**

Handsome Black oral top/bottom ISO average

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- In addition to your ad, send your name, address, home phone & signature.
- You will be assigned a free voice-mailbox number, unless you specify you do not want one. You can record a voice-mail message for free; retrieving messages costs \$1.49 per minute. Upon receipt of your ad, we will send

your voice-mailbox code and info on how to use the system.

- You can rent BLACKLINES mailbox/\$6 per month, if you wish to have written responses forwarded to you; we send them out once a week. (If you have your own PO Box, voice mail #, or beeper #, we request \$5 per 2 months. We DO NOT accept ads with home address/phone)
- Deadline is 10th of each month for next BLACKLines. You can also run in Nightlines and Outlines and En La Vida.

How to respond to an ad:

- If an ad ends with an NLV #, you can reply by mail or by phone to that ad (some ads will list an address + a voice-mail # in parenthesis—either send your reply to the address as it appears or reply by voice-mail).

ses—either send your reply to the address as it appears or reply by voice-mail).

- If ad ends with NL BOX #, you can only reply by mail. If it ends with Voice #, you can only reply by phone (written replies will not be forwarded).
- To respond in writing, send letter to the NLV # or NL BOX # specified at the end of the ad, c/o BLACKLines, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chgo, IL 60657. Respond to all others ads as specified at the end of the ad.
- To leave a voice-mail message (\$1.49/min.), use touchtone phone to call 1-800-454-0101. Punch 1 & 5-digit NLV # or NL Voice # to respond to that ad — or punch 2 to listen to people's voice-mail messages. (773) 871-7610 (Tuesdays 9-5 only)

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Additional words 25¢ ea. \$ _____
MailBox # (\$6 per month) \$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____
Send to: BLACKLines/Outlines, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657

to large size BM over 29, up to 300#. **NLBBox 265 (3)**

I am a Top GBM 50 yr 5'11 1/2" ISO GBM who wants a handsome lover. I like the movies, theater, dining out, etc. Must be straight acting masculine enjoy staying home. No bars, no games, HIV-, no drugs. 30-50 employed. Letter and photo, please. **NLBBox261 (3)**

WOMEN

Gay Black attached female, attractive, hot, 36, intelligent, educated, financially secure, non-smoker, drinker or drug user, lots of fun, with many interests, looking for a friend with similarities, must be attractive, over 5', non-smoker or drug user, to spend free time with, converse and do girl things, etc. Age & race

unimportant. Please write & include phone #. **NLBBox32**

Woman of substance sought by fit, educated, passionate, cat-loving, creative-GWF, ISO sensitive, fit, educated, soulful, GF 38-45 for friendship, laughter, conversation, dancing, good wine, jazz, and tenderness. Send note, photo/cartoon. **NLBBox28 (4)**

Alchemist, poet, priestess; into metaphysics, music & the moon. Seeks SG wise woman for mystic union. (773) 395-3517 (3)

Leave your U-Haul at home and explore spontaneity, passion, and fun. 31, N/S, athletic, educated, professional ISO N/S, mature, thought-provoking, versatile, open-minded, 25-40 woman. Ideas, creativity and sense of humor a must. **VOICE52512 (3)**

Attractive lesbian seeks sexy, emotionally-sound lesbian couple for adventurous three-way. Safe sex, good communication important. No games, no boys. **VOICE 52508 (3)**

Call for Racquetball—Women's league forming in Northern/Northwest burbs. All levels. Please leave name, phone and skill level. **NL/VOICE52506 (3)**

GBF, 20, 5'9", ISO femme (18-25). Looking for someone special to love. **VOICE 52504 (3).**

GF 31 y/o Black Hispanic with 2 kids looking for love. One that is pretty fine 5'2" or shorter with job and time to play. Must be mature. Gay women. **VOICE 52502 (3)**

Wanted: Nice girlfriend for our bestest pal! She's 51, unconventional, BiSWF. Shallow details: 5'9", medium build, fine boned, cat allergic, non-blond. She's 'indoorsy': bright, well read/traveled and fun. Interests: Arts, modern music, Scrabble, British telly, and road trips (doesn't drive). Her idea of camping is no room service. Seeking LTR with intelligent, independent bi/lesbian woman. Requirements: well read, varied interests. Age/race not important. No neophytes, big hair, or separatists. **NL/VOICE 52496 (3)**

GBF, 35, mother of one has a good balance of

work/play, outgoing, serious about responsibilities with a great sense of humor ISO mature woman. No Bi's, druggies or heavy drinkers. Smoking OK. **Pager (312) 820-0810. (3)**

You're ISO working professional/independent/sensitive/considerate/affectionate/attractive/single women beautiful inside and out. Join the Network. Tiffany (708) 686-7329. **NLBBox998 (4)**

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Attractive bi-curious BF is interested in participating in a threesome with two other women or another man and woman. If you feel that you can show this new girl around the block, give me a call. **VM (773) 479-7163 (3)**

Want to come out and play? Do you lay in bed thinking of what you could be doing if only you had a male partner? Do you have a fantasy you want to try? Are you bored thinking of having a casual affair? Lets talk. I'm SWM 36 5'11" 160 #, clean and discreet. (708) 241-0364 or Jay S. 1131 Lake St. #246, Oak Park, IL 60301/5)

Attractive bi-curious BF is interested in participating in a threesome with two other women or another man and woman. If you feel that you can show this new girl around the block, give me a call. **VM (773) 479-7163 (3)**

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IF YOU ARE GAY and were raised in, are practicing, or have ever practiced Islam, an Art Institute graduate student would like to interview you for a student documentary. The interview will be respectfully implored to tell their personal stories regarding a subject not entirely realized by either the Islamic or Queer communities. **If interested, call Abu at (773) 645-3608. (12/97)**

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NEW ORLEANS. One of the most exciting places to visit. Join the **TRAVEL TROTTERS** May 5 to May 9, 1998. For more information call Gary **(773) 488-3430. "Hurry, Act Now." (4/98)**

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GAY PERSONALS! Call the Confidential Connection! Record/Listen/Respond FREE! 18+ use code 7802. **(773) 378-7307, (630) 705-7440, (312) 558-5400, (847) 776-5777, (773) 506-3811. (10/98)**

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OUT! GUIDE OUT

The **OUT! Resource Guide**, published by **Lambda Publications (EN LA VIDA, OUTLINES, NIGHTLINES, BLACKLINES)** is now out. The guide includes thousands of resource listings, from businesses and professionals to organizations. Call **(773) 871-7610** for info.

SOUTH AFRICAN COP WINS PARTNER BENEFITS

South Africa's Pretoria High Court ruled Feb. 4 that South African Police Services Medical Aid violated the constitution when it refused to extend health coverage to lesbian police officer Jolande Langemaat's lover of 11 years, Beverley-Ann Myburgh.

South Africa is the only nation in the world with a ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation written into its constitution.

—Rex Wockner

Lambda Finalists include Lisa Moore, does your mama ...?

The Tenth Annual Lambda Literary Award Finalists have been announced.

Among the nominees are Lisa Moore for her Black lesbian anthology, *does your mama know?*

The book is up for an award in the "Lesbian Studies" and "Small Press" categories.

The House You Pass On the Way, by Jacqueline Woodson, is up for an award in the children's category.

Lambda Literary Award winners will be announced May 29 at a gala banquet in Chicago (in conjunction with the annual national book-sellers convention in Chicago).

Awarding news

Renae Ogletree received a Chicago Commission on Human Relations Award for her work on behalf of the lesbian/gay community. **LEFT:** Wanda Wells (left) with Ogletree. **RIGHT,** from left: Troy Ford, Mary Morten, Sherri Jackson, Jackie Anderson, Ogletree, Michaela Purdue, and Vernita Gray. Photos by Israel Wright





World View: World Wide Web

by Andrew Davis

A Matter of Hate, Part I

Ever since the days of Cain and Abel, hate has been one of the (unfortunate) constants in people's lives. However, when you have several people who share a hatred of one group and subsequently join forces, the results can range from being merely annoying to being dangerous. Hate literature has been distributed in this country for years, and it has been dealt with—although some might argue that it hasn't been handled effectively. However, with the Internet, hate groups that may have been isolated from the mainstream now have a cheap and efficient method of getting their propaganda to a much larger segment of the population.

Several things can be done to combat the messages that hate groups spread. We could ignore the propaganda, thus denying these organizations the publicity they crave. There's also the option of exposing what they do and say—primarily through education. By educating the public about the truth and making sure that they know that these groups possess distorted ideas,

the hate speech will ultimately lose its effectiveness.

In addition, censoring the sites is a choice. The idea is to make it as hard as possible for people to access the information. Ignoring the information does not seem to be the most logical option. For every person who thinks that these "hate sites" cause no harm, there is someone who is digesting the literature and is a potential convert. Censoring is an intriguing choice; it is basically designed to promote truth and filter out lies and what is deemed obtrusive. However, whose truths are we promoting? Also, if we start to censor we will eventually alienate some ethnic, political, or national group. Besides, I am a staunch supporter of the First Amendment and, as much as I detest what these groups say, I believe that they are entitled to air their views—no matter how misguided they are.

In the end, exposing hate and fighting it through education seems to be the most realistic choice. At the very least, people will learn not to make decisions without getting all the facts—hopefully. However, one thing is very clear: the battle against hate is far from over—and in some ways it's just beginning.

This is part one of a three-part series regarding hate groups on the Net. Next month, I will examine some of the anti-gay sites out there in cyberspace.

Feel free to e-mail me at geminil@nwu.edu.

UFMCC To Sponsor Historic National African American Conference

"In Our Own Language: A Conference for African Americans in UFMCC" will be held in suburban Washington, D.C. April 16-18, 1998. This historic national conference is the first organized entirely by and for African-American friends and members of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the world's largest predominantly gay spirituality organization.

According to the Rev. Elder Darlene Garner, conference organizer, "This conference will provide an opportunity for African Americans in UFMCC to affirm who we are in UFMCC and to celebrate the diversity of gifts and experiences we bring to the growing gay spirituality movement, and to the greater g/l/b/t communities."

Conference brochures and registration information are available from UFMCC Headquarters by phone at (310) 360-8640 or by e-mail at Info@ufmccchq.com.

UFMCC provides more than 300 congregations in 15 countries.

OTHER CHICAGO AREA RESOURCES

Anti-Violence Project: Horizons/24 hrs 773-871-CARE
Chicago Commission on Human Relations
Advisory Council on G&L Issues, Mary Morten
(TDD 744-1088)312-744-7911
Cook County State's Attorney's Office Gay and
Lesbian Victim/Witness Coordinator
(Vernita Gray)773-890-7212
Horizons Comm. Services
961 Montana, 60614773-929-HELP
Office 472-6469, FAX 472-6643, (TDD) 327-4357
Howard Brown Health Center,
945 George, 60657773-871-5777
Lambda Legal Defense/Educ. Fund312-663-4413
Lesbian Community Cancer Project Uptown Bank
Bldg, 4753 N. Broadway, #602, 60640 773-561-4662
New Town Alano Club 909 Belmont773-529-0321
Pride Chicago (Pride Week Comm.) 773-348-8243
PO Box 14131, 60614 348-8243

F.Y.I. Resources

Predominantly Black Gay Clubs

CLUB ESCAPE, M.W.D, 1530 E. 75th St.773-667-6454
CLUN INTA'S 308 W. Erie, Girls Night Thurs312-664-6595
CLUB INTIMUS (only Sat. 9p-3a)
312 W. Randolph, W.D.V312-901-1703
GENERATOR 306 N. Halsted, D, MW312-243-8889
GIRLS NIGHT OUT, Fridays, 1200 E. 71st St., Leo's773-667-3130
JEFFERY PUB 7041 S. Jeffrey, MW, D, 4773-363-8555
CLUBHOUSE AT CONVENT MW,D,
1529 Armitage, MONDAYS 11p-4a773-395-8660

OTHER Clubs OF INTEREST

BERLIN 954 Belmont, MW, V, 4, S773-348-4975
BIG CHICKS 5024 N. Sheridan, S/G, WM, 11a-2a/3a Sa 773-728-5511
BUDDIES' REST./BAR 3301 Clark, MW, R773-477-4066
CHICAGO EAGLE, M.L, 5015 N. Clark773-728-0050
CLUB INTA'S 308 W. Erie, Women Thurs., Men Sun.312-664-6595
CIRCUIT 3641 N. Halsted, Salsa, etc773-325-2233
CLUBHOUSE PLAYERS 13126 S. Western,
Blue Island, M,D,E,R,G,S708-389-6688
FUSION 3631 N. Halsted, MW, V, D, E, 4773-975-6622
GIRLBAR, 2625 N. Halsted, W,D773-871-4210
LITTLE JIM'S 3501 N. Halsted, M, 4773-871-6116
MAN'S COUNTRY 5017 N. Clark, M, B773-878-2069
MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE773-477-8362
RAINBOW ROOM 4530 N. Lincoln, WM,D773-271-4378
ROSCOE'S 3354-6 N. Halsted, MW, D, V, E, Cafe 773-281-3355
SIDETRACK 3349 N. Halsted, M, V773-477-9189
SPIN, Halsted & Belmont, MW, D773-327-7711
TEMPTATIONS 10235 W. Grand, Franklin Park, W, D,V, E, 4,
(5a Fri/Sat)847-455-0008

Resources

AA/Newtown Alano Club773-529-0321
Active Proud Black Lesbians and Gays773-493-3848
Adodi African-American men312-458-9584
Affinity, creating a South Side community center
P.O. Box 496002, Chicago, IL 60649312-409-7609
Affinity & Bro. II Bro. Youth 773-288-6900, 312-409-7609, x3
African American Womyn's Alliance
P.O. Box 198573, Chgo 60619-8573773-731-0279
A Real Read—African-American Lesbian/Gay/Trans Performers
www.uic.edu/orgs/arealread312-409-2457
BLACKLINES, Lambda Pub./OUTLINES
1115 W. Belmont, #2-D, 60657 (FAX 773-871-7609) 773-871-7610
outlines@suba.com <http://www.suba.com/~outlines/>
GAMBA: Brothers Community Awareness Network
Bro2Bro@juno.com, meets at MOIR, 1255 S. Wabash
Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays,
P.O. Box 14811, Chicago, IL 60614-1181312-409-4917
Chgo Gay & Lesbian Marching Band(773) 743-5738
Church of the Open Door FAX (773) 778-0178, 773-778-3030
Black lesbian/gay/trans/heterosexual Church, 5954 S. Albany
The Committee, 2300 N. Clybourn, #32, 60614 773-235-0295
Greater Chicago Committee, P.O. Box 146642, 60614-6642
Healthline 312-661-9153, prevent. 773-674-0429 312-670-9660
Harambe Jahard Suburban Afric.-Amer. Bi/GayMen 708-445-2584
Horizons Community Services773-929-HELP
Howard Brown Health Center773-871-5777
Imani Umoja, Chicago Afric.-Amer Bi/Gay men773-907-8993
Last House on the Block G&L in recovery773-373-0024
Lesbian Community Cancer Project773-561-4662
Les Femmes Amies312-232-0787
Men of All Colors Together/Chicago, PO Box
408922, 60640-8922312-409-6916
Minority Outreach Intervention Proj, FAX 312-986-0928
1255 S. Wabash, Suite 2-S, 60605312-986-0661
National Black L&G Leadership Forum202-483-6786
Onyx/Chicago leather/men, 1340 Irving, #188, 60613
PAC Social Club, South Side for mature lesbians
of African Descent, PACSOCIALC@aol.com
Parents, Friends & Family of L&Gs/South Side 773-488-7711
Phrasority parties for all lesbians and gays312-409-6637
Roseland Community Hospital773-995-6469
Stop AIDS/African American Program
1718 E. 75th St., 60649773-752-7867
Test Positive Aware/Brothers United in Support773-404-8726
TransGenesis trans support312-839-5541
United Faith Affinitas, Black L/G/Bi, 1448 E. 53rd 773-878-7839
Yahimba, 1012-1/2 Dodge, Evanston, IL 60202847-328-7715
Women of All Colors Together 773-267-0976, (708) 869-9120
Womyn Space: Lez Be In, a sister circle773-874-2222
Writers Collective—gay, trans, lesbians of color 312-409-2457

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Call Today for an Appointment.*

**Do you know your HIV status? Free HIV counseling,
testing and referrals are available at these clinics:**

**Uptown
845 W. Wilson
744-7533**

**Lakeview
2861 N. Clark
744-8829**

**West Town
2418 W. Division
744-5464**

**Near Southside
1306 S. Michigan
747-0103**

**Mid South
641 W. 63rd
747-0282**

**Roseland
200 E. 115th
747-2817**

For more information contact
the Chicago Department of Health
312-747-AIDS (TDD 744-2960)
Also available are health educators and
HIV/AIDS educational materials.
City of Chicago, Richard M. Daley, Mayor

CHICAGO BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS

CBLG will celebrate its fifth anniversary by acknowledging the re-energizing of community building in the black lesbian/gay/transgender community.

UNITY IV Renaissance & Renewal

Celebrating Ourselves

FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD

Registration begins at 11:00 a.m.

Opening Plenary Session • 1:00 p.m.

Men's and Women's Institutes
2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception • 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

People of Color Poetry Slam
at the Vix: A Jazz Supper Club
2814 N. Halsted • 9:00 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE:

Sign Language interpreters will be provided.
The Conference site is fully Wheelchair Accessible. ♿

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE FORM BELOW
ALONG WITH A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:

Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays
PO Box 14811, Chicago, IL 60614-1181
Voicemail/Hotline 312-409-4917

Visit our website at
<http://members.aol.com/CBLGUCIV/cblguc1.html>

SPONSORED IN PART BY (LIST IN FORMATION):

- ♦ Crossroads Fund of Chicago

UNITED AIRLINES



Dr. Marjorie Hill

A dynamic, motivated speaker, Dr. Marjorie Hill was the first openly lesbian president of the Association of Black Psychologists. Hill was appointed by New York City Mayor David Dinkins to serve as director of the Mayor's Office for Lesbian and Gay Issues.

Phill Wilson

A co-founder, and board member emeritus of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, Phill Wilson continues to be an internationally recognized AIDS activist. He is currently the resident scholar on HIV and AIDS at the University of California.



Friday, April 3, and Saturday, April 4
Holiday Inn Chicago City Centre
300 East Ohio Street

SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH

Registration begins 8:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast • 8:00 a.m.

Welcome and Keynote Address
with Dr. Marjorie Hill • 9:00 a.m.

3 Concurrent Workshops
9:45 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2:45 p.m.

Lunch and Keynote Address
with Phill Wilson • 11:45 p.m.

Gala Reception • 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Banquet and Gala • 8:00 p.m.

After Party • 10:00 p.m.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail address: _____

Organization Affiliation (optional): _____

☐ For the conference lunch I request a vegetarian meal.

I have enclosed a check or money order for \$_____.

Please Note: No refunds after March 10.

Registrations received before March 25 will be acknowledged.

Pick up conference materials at the door.

☐ \$100 GOLD TICKET:

- Friday Institutes.
- Welcome Reception.
- Continental Breakfast and Lunch (Saturday).
- Saturday Conference.
- Banquet and Gala.
- After Party.

☐ \$75 GREEN PLUS:

- Continental Breakfast and Lunch (Saturday).
- Saturday Conference.
- Banquet and Gala.
- After Party.

☐ \$30 GREEN TICKET:

- Continental Breakfast and Lunch (Saturday).
- Saturday Conference.

☐ \$25 PURPLE TICKET:

- Friday Institutes.
- Welcome Reception.

☐ \$60 Banquet & Gala Only

For all registrations
postmarked after March 13
add \$15 to prices shown here.